Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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Computer programmes may be set up to save £2m

AXE LOOMING FOR ROAD SAFETY TEAM

Report by Heather Large

THE axe is looming for a team of 20 staff who teach Sandwell youngsters about road safety, after council chiefs backed cost-cutting plans.

A final decision on the future of the team, which visits schools around the borough to teach youngsters how to cross the road safely, will be made the council's cabinet by August.

Sandwell Council wants to get rid of the workers and replace them with computer programmes as part of wider plans to save £2 million. As well as holding lessons in the classroom, the team takes children out of the school to demonstrate how to cross the road.

The council said the new computer system was considered to be a more effective way of teaching youngsters and was used by other councils around the country. Transport boss Councillor Maria Crompton said the authority wanted to move forward with the 'interactive' computer system following a public consultation with schools, parents and unions.

Councillor Crompton, who is cabinet member for highways and environment, said: "A report will be discussed by cabinet in June or July recommending the modernisation of the child pedestrian training service. This follows extensive development of an interactive electronic service including workshops, pilot trials and consultation.

Reconsider

"The new interactive service would be recommended to commence in the new academic year – September 2015 – subject to cabinet approval." The proposals to axe the team of part-time workers – 19 women and one man – have come under fire from concerned union bosses, who called on the council to reconsider the move.

Mohammed Khalik, GMB Regional organiser, said: "The service provides local primary schools with staff to teach children road safety by taking them into the local community to demonstrate safe and unsafe practice. The service is delivered by predominately women workers on low earnings due their low hours of work." The cutbacks come as the council continues to achieve savings of £38m by 2018.

A 'Facing the Future' programme was launched last year to find £22m of savings.

But in March it was revealed that an extra £16 million of cuts will need to be made over the next three years. The programme will now be extended to achieve the full cuts of £38m by 2018. Council chiefs have reiterated the priority is to protect front line services.

LIFE'S A BEACH FOR VISITORS TO MANOR HOUSE

Rachel Kinsella a visitor services officer at the Manor House Museum in West Bromwich who will be holding a seaside event on Sunday

THE seaside is coming to West Bromwich, with the Manor House Museum set to become a beach paradise this weekend.

The attraction will host its Manor House by the Sea event on Sunday, which will include a beach, Punch and Judy shows, ice creams, donkey rides, cocktails and live music.

Admission to the event, which runs from 11am until 3pm, is free. The beach will remain in place for visitors to enjoy during half-term week until May 29.

Other events coming up at the museum include an outdoor performance of Shakespeare's As You Like It on May 30. The Festival Players are returning to the attraction with The Bard's pastoral comedy full of love, laughter, and lyricism.

While a swashbuckling fun day will take place on June 27 when visitors will be able to help save the Manor House from being ambushed by pirates.

The Manor House in Hall Green Road – one of the most important surviving medieval timber framed buildings in the Midlands – was originally built by Richard de Marnham in the 1270s. In more recent times it has had several uses including as a tenement building for people to live in and following restoration in the 1950s, it was leased by Ansells Brewery in 1961 and run as a pub and restaurant.

It opened as a visitor attraction run by Sandwell Council's museum service in 2010.

Staff are appealing for people's memories of the site to create a special archive celebrating the 800-year-old estate.

Anyone wanting to share their memories can email museumarts_tourism@sandwell.gov.uk or contact Zoe Scriven on 0121 5530759.

ALBION

Fan suffers cardiac arrest at big game

A WEST Bromwich Albion fan suffered a cardiac arrest at The Hawthorns.

Stewards and ambulance staff rushed to help him after he was taken ill at the clash against Chelsea on Monday. The middle-aged fan was sitting in the upper tier of the East Stand when the attack happened.

Baggies spokesman Martin Swain said he was in a stable condition in hospital with a good prognosis and offered him the best wishes of everyone at the club. Albion beat the new Premier League champions 3-0.

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POLITICS

Spellar in pledge over foxhunting

A RE-ELECTED Sandwell MP has said he will oppose 'every inch of the way' any attempt to bring back hunting foxes with dogs.

John Spellar, who represents Warley, hit out at reports suggesting the Conservatives were likely to press for hunting with dogs to form part the Queen's Speech next Wednesday.

He said: "My constituents are clear that they want no return to the barbaric hunting of foxes by hounds and I will oppose it every inch of the way."

ACCIDENT

Man is left injured after car hits tree

A MAN was taken to hospital after the car he was travelling in hit a tree.

He suffered a suspected chest injury and was taken to Sandwell Hospital for treatment.

The smash happened in Newton Road, Great Barr.

One lane was closed in the aftermath, leading to traffic jams.

Fire crews, police and paramedics were called just after 10pm on Tuesday.

West Midlands Fire Service spokesman Neil Spencer said minor delays were caused for a short time in the wake of the accident while debris was cleared.

INSIDE

MACCA TO GET BACK IN ACTION

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Volunteers clean up in tidy campaign

Clean-up at Yew Tree

A CHARITY group is cleaning up areas in Sandwell with support of the borough council.

Tipton Litter Watch, working in conjunction with waste partner Serco and with equipment from supplied by Sandwell Council, has been litter picking in Pimpernel Drive, Yew Tree, and West Bromwich.

The work comes as part of the Big Spring Clean campaign, now in its ninth year, which sees volunteers also take take part in graffiti removal, planting, painting and supporting wildlife.

The multi-award winning campaign started in April and runs through to October, taking place across the borough's six towns.

Shane Allen, Big Spring Clean project officer, said: "We want to get that stretch of land on Yew Tree fully cleared up as soon as possible. We have done two litter picks there now and can hopefully get three more in by the end of the campaign in October."

Hundreds of locations have benefited due to the commitment of thousands of volunteers in recent years.

The Big Spring Clean is one of Sandwell's most popular community campaigns, but Mr Allen is still keen for more people to also play their part and make the clean-up successful once again.

He said: "We look to recruit people from voluntary centres to come down and help us out – people from the council have joined in too and are interacting with it."

To organise a Big Spring Clean event in your area, fill in an online form at www.sandwell.gov.uk. You can also get involved by emailing bigspring clean.sandwell@serco.com or calling 0121 544 3916.

Killer gets life term for 'brutal' murder of Lidia

KILLER Matthew Cherrington has been jailed for life for the 'brutal and senseless' murder of Lidia Pascale.

Cherrington will serve a minimum of 19 years behind bars for beating the prostitute to death at his West Bromwich home.

The 32-year-old delivered 11 killer blows to her head with a heavy weapon. He then dumped her body in a wheelie bin 100 yards from his flat in High Street. The father of three had denied murdering Romanian-born Miss Pascale but was found guilty following a two-week trial at Birmingham Crown Court on Tuesday. He was described as a 'very dangerous man'.

After killing the 26-year-old escort, Cherrington sold her phone in a West Bromwich shop and used the cash to buy paint to cover up blood splatters in his flat.

Miss Pascale had arranged to meet her killer at his home via text messages. She had been in the UK for about a year and lived at addresses in Smethwick and Foleshill in Coventry.

Contact

Prosecutors told the trial that she had worked as an escort in order to supplement her income.

The court heard how she was last seen on the evening of November 19 after being driven to the address by a friend who then waited for her in the car. When she failed to return, her friend made attempts to contact her. She was reported missing the following day. Extensive inquiries were carried out by detectives and weeks later her body was found in a bin in Hope Street.

The court heard that factory worker Cherrington had contacted a number of escorts that fateful evening. Emily Lenham, senior crown prosecutor from West Midlands Crown Prosecution Service, said: "Throughout the prosecution of this case, Matthew Cherrington maintained his denial that he had ever met Lidia Pascale. He attempted to evade detection at every step of the police investigation. However, the evidence of his involvement in the offence was overwhelming.

"A very dangerous man has been convicted of a brutal and senseless crime. We hope the verdict can bring some solace to the family and friends of Lidia Pascale."

Police leading the investigation said a trail of forensic evidence confirmed Cherrington's guilt. Her body had been put in a black bin liner and a fingerprint on the liner was identified as his. On top of the body was a small carrier bag containing a foil pipe which, after testing, had Cherrington's DNA and a fingerprint on.

Matthew Cherrington, will serve a minimum of 19 years

Lidia Pascale, whose body was in a bin

Police in Hope Street, West Bromwich

Vice girl suffered in her last minutes

'THERE must have been suffering in her last minutes.'

Those were the words that echoed around court as factory worker Matthew Cherrington was found guilty of killing prostitute Lidia Pascale and dumping her body in a wheelie bin.

It was in November last year that Romanian-born Miss Pascale called at Cherrington's home in High Street, West Bromwich. It was the last time that anybody would see her alive.

She had come to England around a year earlier and desperate to make some money for her family, she resorted to selling her body. What she thought was just another customer, turned out to be the man who would kill her. While inside the flat she was bludgeoned with a weapon that was never found. She received up to 11 blows to the head. Her lifeless body was then dragged from the flat and shoved into the wheelie bin.

Sentencing Cherrington, Recorder Melbourne Inman QC said: "Your intention was that the body would never be seen again. It would have remained in that bin and never seen again, apart from the fact the police searched it. Had they not found it her family may well never have known what had become of her. You hid her body in a bin bag, then stuffed her in wheelie bin." Mr Michael Burrows QC, prosecuting, said: "It must have been a prolonged attack, and although mercifully for her death would have followed very swiftly, she was plainly aware of the attack from the injuries to her hands, so there was suffering in her last minutes."

Ex-soldier is jailed over construction work fiddle

A FORMER soldier who swindled more than £1,000 and a car from a disabled man in Wednesbury while claiming to work for a home improvement company has been jailed.

Stephan Lovatt took the cash and vehicle from the victim in payment for a summerhouse – but the 44-year-old, who said he was employed by Stormseal despite no longer working there, failed to show up to carry out the work.

Lovatt pleaded guilty to a number of offences that breached trading standards on building and construction work at six homes.

Shrewsbury Crown Court was told how the former salesman developed a 'pattern of offending' over an 18-month period from February 2011.

He would claim to work for a reputable company, take cash off customers for 'supplies' and either not complete or start work.

Judge Peter Barrie sentenced Lovatt, who appeared at the court via video link from HMP Dovegate, to five years in prison.

One of the homes belonged to the disabled victim wanting a summer house from Wednesbury, said Mr Kevin Saunders, prosecuting.

Lovatt took payment from the victim of around £1,300 cash and took his car, also as a payment. The victim contacted trading standards after he failed to show up.

Mr Paul Smith, for Lovatt, said he always intended to finish the work but could not due to issues in his life.

£8m savings aim set by NHS chiefs

MORE than £8 million will be cut from NHS budgets in Sandwell during the next 12 months. Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is looking to make the savings during the 2015/16 financial year.

GPs have pledged to treat people closer to their homes, reduce medicine waste and avoid the need for people to be re-admitted to hospital unnecessarily. They say this will help the CCG to save £8.1m from its annual budget of £653m.

But health chiefs say overall spending on health and social care will be higher than in previous years with more cash spent on mental health services.

They are also looking at funding more services for people with long-term conditions to enable them to receive treatment at home rather than be re-admitted to hospital.

Homes bid lodged at disused quarry

A DISUSED Rowley Regis quarry which closed almost 10 years ago has been been earmarked for a major housing estate.

Plans have been lodged with Sandwell Council to overhaul the Edwin Richards Quarry.The 30-year masterplan will see more than 280 homes built on the site.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

ALEX Salmond is to become the SNP's foreign-affairs spokesman at Westminster. Foreign? Do they mean us?

THE people's broadcaster should broadcast in the plain, straightforward English of the people. Wednesday's BBC lunchtime news began: "A tranche of statistics this morning . . ."

BUT I was impressed with some of the writing in the comedy Murder in Successville (BBC3). Raymond Chandler himself would have been proud of the line, describing an unsolved killing: "Like a rundown fairground, there wasn't much to go on."

THE TV licence is similar to Mrs Thatcher's poll tax. Everyone, rich or poor, is expected to pay the same amount and if you don't pay up, you may go to prison. So isn't it odd that the greatest defenders of the TV licence are the same sort of people who raged against the wickedness of poll tax? As the Tories start making threatening noises about the future of the licence, the usual assortment of Beeb-adoring luvvies and liberals seem to have no problem with poor people being jailed for not paying Auntie's annual bill. Funny old world.

THE first casualty of war is truth. The first casualty of this General Election is a sense of proportion. Ken Livingstone, who is old enough to know better, predicts "five more years of pure evil" while demonstrators who are little more than children scream about "vile Tory scum." So let's please have a reality check. All that's happened is that a Government of the centre-right has been elected. Yet to judge from the torrents of Leftist bile, you would think Whitehall had fallen under the power of the Dark Lord and the orcs were already gassing the poor. A generation of activists has grown up brainwashed into believing Tories are no better than Nazis and that poll tax was a crime against humanity.

A TWITTER campaign, We Want Plates, has been founded to fight the modern trend of fashionable gastro pubs serving meals on anything from bricks and flat caps to shovels. I am reminded of my misspent youth on the building sites when an old labourer showed me how to cook the traditional navvy's breakfast on a hot shovel. The important thing, he stressed, was to get every last grain of sand off the shovel. He washed, wiped and polished that shovel until you could see your face in it. Then, satisfied not a grain of sand remained, he stuck it in the brazier, dropped in a lump of dripping and slipped two eggs and two rashers of bacon into the hot fat. I can still taste the sand.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Footballer faces life ban for attack

A SUNDAY league footballer is facing a life ban after he head-butted an opponent's mother who had run onto the pitch to protect her son. Corey Barnett was playing for Black Country Rovers when he became involved in a flare up with Hasbury FC player Jack Weaver.

But when Mr Weaver's concerned mother Pamela ran onto the pitch to intervene, she was head-butted by Barnett. As a result of the fracas, which took place in front of a crowd of horrified onlookers at the Red Lion playing fields in Oldbury, Barnett was suspended from having any involvement in football.

He now faces a worldwide life ban and must complete a community order after he was found guilty of common assault. According to the referee's report from the October 26 match, Barnett and Mr Weaver had both been red carded after an on the pitch altercation.

Mr Kulbir Paul, prosecuting, told Sandwell Magistrates Court on Monday: "The victim's son and this defendant were playing for opposing teams.

"She was watching when some sort of dispute ensued. She sees the defendant being aggressive and goes on the pitch to protect her son when she is head-butted.

"This results in blood flow from her lip that was also swollen." Mr Omar Saddique, defending, said: "He is remorseful about what happened." Unemployed Barnett, of Lilac Grove, Bentley, Walsall, had denied common assault but was found guilty after a trial last month.

He was handed a 12-month community order including 150 hours of unpaid work and ordered to pay £150 compensation, £500 costs and £60 victim surcharge.

District Judge Mr Michael Wheeler told Barnett, 23, who has two previous cautions for violence, that there was no excuse for his bad behaviour.

Birmingham FA discipline chief Mike Fellows branded the attack during the Warley Sunday League match 'absolutely disgraceful' and said Barnett's football career was over. "We don't want people like him in the game."

Corey Barnett

Bearly there as town taken over by trail

Anya Sanchez with the bears at St Mary's Church

The map showing the bear trail as it weaves around Bearwood and finishes in Warley Woods

St Germain's Church's bear in Warley Woods

A Boys Brigade bear in Lightwoods Park

One of the decorated bears on Abbey Road

IF you go down to Bearwood today, you're sure of a big surprise.

By Rob Cox

For dozens of Bearwood Bears have been dotted outside shops, in gardens and at schools and families are being encouraged to enjoy a day out walking from one grizzly to the next.

The one metre tall wooden sculptures have been designed and decorated by 30 community groups based in and around the town. A map of the accessible route of just under two kilometres is available online. It begins at Lightwoods Park, carries on onto the High Street, along Abbey Road before finally heading – quite fittingly – through Warley Woods.

Project champion Anya Sanchez said she was delighted with the multi-coloured bears. She said: "There are quite a few with children's handprints on and the majority are totally and utterly original."

Community group We Are Bearwood received money from the Big Lottery Fund to get the scheme off the ground. Each sculpture is accompanied by a historical fact about Bearwood written on a pendant and a quiz is available onlineIn addition the group has made smaller, cardboard versions of the bears called cubs so people can decorate and make their own bear and display it in their garden or window. Mrs Sanchez, added: "It warms my heart when I saw them out today.

"When you think up a project like this in your bedroom you don't know how it will turn out. People have put in so much effort and thought."

Schools that have taken part include Bearwood Primary, Abbey Junior, St Gregory's Catholic Primary and Uplands Manor Primary.

The trail was unveiled on Sunday and will be available until May 31.

To download the map go to www.wearebearwood.org

Police issue help appeal on violent car-jacking

POLICE are hunting a violent car-jacker who punched and forced his victim out of his BMW in a supermarket car park.

The attack happened at Asda, in Queslett, near Great Barr.

Investigating officers said they are keen to speak to a man in a Royal Mail uniform who is believed to have seen the violent theft.

Police say the attacker approached his 41-year-old victim as he sat in his white BMW M3 convertible at around 6.30pm on April 14,

When the unsuspecting driver opened the door, he was punched in the face, dragged out of the car – and the distinctive high-performance 12-plate vehicle was driven away.

Pc Luke Knight, from West Midlands Police, said: "Asda is likely to have been fairly busy at this time and so plenty of people may have seen what happened.

"In particular, there was a man who was wearing a Royal Mail uniform, who we believe witnessed the whole crime and spoke to the victim immediately after the offender had driven off.

"We urge him to come forward as he may have information that's vital to our inquiry."

The car-jacker is described as black, of slim build, in his early to mid 20s, with a Birmingham accent, wearing a dark-coloured hoody and a green high visibility jacket.

Witnesses can call Birmingham Central Investigation Team on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Collision leaves woman serious

A WOMAN is believed to have suffered life-threatening injuries in a crash between a minibus and car.

Forge Lane and Park Lane was closed between Great Barr and West Bromwich after the accident happened at 4.40pm last Thursday.

West Midlands Police say the woman was believed to be a passenger in a silver Peugeot 206 which collided with a white Ford Transit minibus.

Paramedics were joined at the scene by two crews from West Bromwich Fire Station.

Meanwhile, a broken-down school bus caused disruption at a busy roundabout at the junction of Upper High Street and High Bullen in Wednesbury at 2.30pm on Thursday.

It was around an hour before the bus was moved from the road.

Sea life's fascinating history at attraction

A HOST of exciting activities, workshops and talks will take place over half term at the National Sea Life Centre, at Brindleyplace in Birmingham, following the theme of the evolution of sea creatures throughout the week.

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Driver who had knife in the car locked up

A DRIVER who 'panicked' because he was uninsured and refused to stop for police has been jailed for 10 months.

Lafaire Manning led officers on a five-minute chase through Black Country residential streets at almost twice the speed limit.

The 22-year-old weaved in and out of cars at the wheel of a VW Golf and hurtled over speed bumps at up to 57 mph in a 30 mph zone while trying to escape from the pursuing police patrol that had ordered him to halt because he was travelling too fast, Mr Howard Searle said at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Monday.

Other motorists were forced to take evasive action as Manning hurtled along Lewisham Road and into Brasshouse Lane, Smethwick before finally ending up in a cul-de-sac where he abandoned the VW Golf and its two passengers in a bid to flee on foot. The defendant leapt over two garden fences and threw away a knife before being caught.

Mr Alexander Barnfield, defending, said: "He was not insured and panicked when asked to stop."

Manning, of no fixed address, admitted dangerous driving, possession of a knife and driving with neither licence nor insurance. He was sent to prison, banned from driving for a year and ordered to take an extended test before returning to the roads.

Recorder Stephen Thomas said: "People who carry knives either in their car or on their person can expect an immediate term of imprisonment."

Ex-Villa pair to be FA Cup guests

TWO Aston Villa legends will be in a Black Country pub to watch the highly anticipated FA Cup final.

Tim Sherwood's side will clash with Arsenal at Wembley on May 30. And at 4pm, ahead of the 5.30pm kick-off Mark Walters and Allan Evans will be taking questions from punters at the Britannia Sports Bar in High Street, Wollaston.

Wayne Etheridge, the bar's owner, said: "Mark Walters and Allan Evans have over 50 appearances between them so it is a bit of a coup for us really." Walters had spells with Villa, Liverpool, Glasgow Rangers, Wolves, Swindon and Bristol Rovers and Evans was part of the team which won the 1980-1 league title and the European Cup in 1982.

Games are back at town museum

FAMILIES can visit Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery on May 26 for a day full of retro fun and games. From giant versions of snakes and ladders to classic games including Mouse Trap, Downfall and Kerplunk.

Daylight raid uncovers cannabis den

The cannabis den in Smethwick

TENS of thousands of pounds worth of cannabis was found inside an industrial unit in the Black Country during a daylight police raid.

Batches of the illegal drug was found hanging inside the building off Hill Street in Smethwick, close to Rolfe Street train station.

Hundreds of plants were also discovered carpeting the floor of rooms inside the two storey unit when police burst in.

The large-scale drugs operation covered five rooms in total as part of the set up to produce cannabis for sale across the Midlands. In total, 986 cannabis plants were seized with samples taken by specialists at the scene to be forensically tested.

West Midlands Police raided the premises in broad daylight last Wednesday afternoon following a 999 call.

The discovery was made just before 4pm when members of the force's cannabis team joined neighbourhood police from Soho and Victoria.

Huge lights had been brought inside the building to help grow the illegal crop in pots which took up large areas of rooms. Canvas sheeting surrounded much of the crop which were in varied stages of growth.

Fans and over ventilation equipment was also used by those growing the cannabis inside.

Electrical wires were also strewn throughout to help power equipment inside the premises.

Other plants had already been cultivated and were left hanging up to dry out before being prepared to be sold.

A force spokesman said: "No arrests have been made at present."

More arrests as police in drugs crackdown

MORE than 100 police officers have swooped on homes across Sandwell in the past six weeks in a bid to stamp out drug crime.

Thousands of pounds has been seized, cannabis farms have been smashed and suspected crack cocaine recovered.

The tally of those arrested in the Spring Safer Six raids now stands at almost 60.

Six men and a woman were arrested in the latest flurry of dawn raids.

Around £8,000 in cash was seized by around 100 officers who have been working on the various operations.

More than 100 rocks of suspected crack cocaine was found alongside the discovery of a three drugs farms harvesting the class B drug cannabis.

The latest warrants bring the arrest tally to 58 with 49 of those charged and brought before the courts in recent days.Three remain on bail and one faces no further action meaning 45 are remanded pending trial.

Warrants

West Midlands Police, chief inspector Jane Parry, who was leading the initiative, declared the raids a success in helping the fight against crime.

Ch Insp Parry said: "Spring Safer Six has been conducted in addition to business as usual policing and all the other warrants we have been executing as day-to-day business.

"In just six days of action we have seized £8,000 in cash, recovered 120 rocks of suspected crack cocaine and smashed three cannabis farms with drugs valued at just under £10,000.

"In addition we have seized sat navs, bikes, bank cards, and even work boots which we believe have been stolen.

"Other property has also been secured for checks."

She said the force had been unable to trace all of the property's owners so far.

Officers will be displaying all of these items during a property showcase between 10am and 1pm on June 6 at Hope Church, in Marsh Lane, Hateley Heath, West Bromwich.

Safer Six is a long-running Sandwell-based operation which has aimed to drive down crime levels across the borough.

The latest round of the operation was launched in April, the same month that burglary rates fell to a new all-time low in the borough.

Big night for Minis at parts firm

Getting ready for the Mini event at David Manners Group are Paul Grainger, Luke Daniels and Vikki Jell

MINI enthusiasts can celebrate the iconic car at an open event in Sandwell next month.

It will be hosted by David Manners Group in Oldbury with the British Mini Club.

Fans of the British car, which used to be built at Longbridge in Birmingham, are invited to attend the event on June 30.

Joy Clarke, of David Manners Group in Wolverhampton Road, said: "Each year we hold a Mini open evening with the British Mini Club where classic Mini owners and enthusiasts come together for a night of entertainment and Mini-themed fun.

"We offer a special show discount to all of the Mini owners, and they also get free food vouchers. Whatever the weather, we are prepared for lots of family friendly fun, including prize giveaways.

"Keith Calver – technical editor for Mini Magazine – will also be in attendance, answering questions and enjoying the event."

The British Mini Club was established in 1992 and now has thousands of members across the country.

It is led by David Hollis from Brierley Hill. Designed as a small economy car in the late 1950s by Sir Alec Issigonis, the Mini became a symbol of the 1960s.

The event will run from 6pm until 9pm.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cash help for entrepreneurs

BRIGHT sparks with ideas for social enterprise in Sandwell can apply for awards up to £5,000. The awards are available for people who want to transform their community with innovative business ideas that tackle important social issues.

The Sandwell Entrepreneur Programme is backed by UnLtd, Sweda (Skills Work Enterprise Development Agency) and Sandwell Council.

To request an application form, before June 1, email sweda@sweda.org.uk or paulsquires@unltd.org.uk or lucy_monk@sandwell.gov.uk.

Praise for trust after inspection

THE quality of care delivered by a hospital trust has been praised following an inspection. The University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust was rated as good overall by the Care Quality Commission.

Sir Mike Richards, Chief Inspector of Hospitals at the health watchdog, said staff were dedicated and caring and led by an excellent leadership team, but added that some improvements were needed. The trust, which runs the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, was rated as outstanding on having well-led services.

A wonderland of canalside events

ALICE in Wonderland is the theme for the half term celebrations at Dudley Canal Trust.

Families can take part in craft activities on the towpath which include making tea-cup headwear and bread-and-butterflies. Activities cost 50p and will run between 12pm and 2pm from Monday to Friday.The Mad Hatter will also be in residence around lunchtime each day.

Pre-booking is advised as places are limited. Call 0121 5576265 to book.

Police launch probe after series of thefts

A SPATE of thefts from shops and outside homes in Blackheath has prompted a police investigation.

Officers said 10 thefts had taken place between April 18 and May 2.

Offenders targeted stores in Oldbury Road with chocolate bars and razor blades among the goods to be taken. Two thefts took place from shops in Long Lane including a two bottles of aftershave being taken.

It is unclear at this stage if the thefts were linked.

Special safari fun

PEOPLE are being encouraged to take part in Love Your Safari Week at half term with facts, fun and crafts before getting up close and personal with creepy crawlies at Bewdley Safari Park. Admission is £19.99 for adults, £14.99 for children aged three to 15 and £17.99 concessions.

IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Feel free to donate but make it anonymous

SOME time ago, I made a small donation to a well-known charity. Can't remember how much, it may have been a tenner, possibly a bit more. Let's just say it wasn't going to stop the world spinning on its axis.

For the next two, three, maybe even four years I was sent a deluge of junk mail. Glossy leaflets about the good work it was doing, of course. Personalised stationery bearing the charity's logo. Special messages at Christmas and Easter, and at least two Katherine Jenkins CDs. All designed to make me part with more of my hard-earned, presumably to reinvest in more CDs of popular sopranos.

On another occasion, one of the chuggers in Wolverhampton persuaded me to sign up for an annual donation to another national charity. Again the amount was small, and it later emerged it would be two years before the donation actually covered the commission for the grinning cheesemonger who persuaded me to sign up in the first place. I thought I was contributing to a worthy cause, not keeping a chirpy student-type in Starbucks and flip-flops.

When I asked a third charity to lay off the junk mail, it responded with weekly telephone calls instead.

All very annoying, and it made me far less likely to support any of these genuinely good causes again. But, as a robust and reasonably thick-skinned 40-something, I'm big enough and ugly enough to take it in my stride.

For 92-year-old Olive Cooke, though, the emotional blackmail proved much harder to shrug off. A devoted charity worker herself, she became Britain's oldest poppy seller.

She too made donations to many well-known charities, but as always seems to be the case, whatever she gave was never enough.

An inquest has yet to be held, but the evidence suggests she struggled to meet the commitments and cancelled some of the standing orders. As the charities responded by stepping up the tear-jerking campaigns, she took her own life.

We all know it is hard for charities to raise funds, and most reasonable people respond well to a bit of tin rattling and the odd stall in the supermarket. But some of the tactics used by the big charities in particular are every bit as unpleasant as the cold callers from the personal injury and PPI compensation industries.

Maybe it's time for the Charity Commission to step in, and I would love to know how much of people's donations is ploughed back into marketing.

In the meantime, I do believe we all still have a duty to help the less fortunate, but make sure it is anonymous.

The moment they ask for names, addresses, or bank details, make your excuses and leave.

Police use hydraulic gear to force open a door

Officers stand by during the Sandwell Safer Six initiative

Arron Owen, left, and Neil Parkes

Turning offenders away from crime

An initiative to take prolific offenders away from crime is being hailed by police. **JOHN SCOTT** takes up the story

"WE can either be their best friend or their worst enemy."

So says Sergeant Colin Gallier, part of a policing team given the task of turning Sandwell's most prolific offenders away from a life of crime.

The officers, who work with probation, drug treatment and mental health experts to manage 250 prolific high risk offenders living in Sandwell – up to 80 per cent of whom have drug problems – are already making a difference.

New figures show re-offending rates by this group have fallen to the lowest levels in the country at just 5.3 per cent with the number of 15-to-25-year-olds using heroin and cocaine in the area also falling and increasing numbers of addicts under treatment.

The criminals the officers are dealing with are usually involved in crimes such as burglary, mugging and theft to pay for their next fix.

Custody

The specialist 23-strong police team meets with the other agencies each month to discuss the progress of the worst 50 offenders – half of whom can be in custody at any one time – while all 250 under police management have weekly updated 'scores' with points awarded for things like an arrest, caution or positive drug test.

Each member of the police team each has personal responsibility for around 20 of the criminals. They discover what triggers the offending and either control those unwilling to be rehabilitated with curfews, exclusion orders and bans on associating with specific individuals, or assist others to change their ways.

Officials say drug treatment is preventing more than 35,000 crimes a year being committed in Sandwell.

Nationally the figure is estimated to be 4.9 million but the annual cost of drug misuse in the UK still tops £15 billion.

Police carry out a drugs raid at a property in the Hill Top area of West Bromwich

A heavy user of hard drugs spends around £90-a-day on heroin and cocaine and any offender with a serious drug problem not under treatment is reckoned to commit around £26,000 worth of crime a year. Their chaotic lifestyle often means they do not receive benefits after missing appointments.

Latest data suggests that drug treatment in Sandwell prevented more than 35,000 crimes in 2012/13 and every £1 invested in that treatment saves an estimated £3.75 in crime, welfare and health costs. This means the £2.5m-a-year presently spent could be worth over £9m.

The borough – regularly ranked among the dozen most deprived areas in the country – has around 2,000 dependent heroin and cocaine users with the number receiving treatment having risen sharply from 800 to 1000 in the past year. At the same time 100 people living there have become drug free after successfully completing the programme. Several have since found work.

The IRIS drug project is being run by a 40-plus team from Cranstoun, a substance misuse treatment charity under a £2.5m-a-year three year contract and supported by volunteers and mentors.

Arron Owen, Sandwell manager, stressed: "This is not about waving a magic wand. It is a question of helping them along the way.

"It is challenging and hard work but the best advert is word of mouth. If folk are happy with the service they will encourage others to give it a try and people who see acquaintances become clean are more likely to get involved themselves."

Recovered former addicts are used to mentor those trying to kick the habit while anybody who tests positive for opiates after arrest is given a mandatory appointment with a drug work and re-arrested if they do not attend.

Anti Social Behaviour(ASB) officers and others target the young by giving talks to schools. Youths are not immediately charged or cautioned after being detained for an offence. A weekly meeting of a multi-agency panel decides if there is a better solution to turn them away from crime.

Officials work closely with problem families to steer them away from crime. ASB officers were involved with 50 drug related cases in the 12 months up to March, representing 11 per cent of their total workload, three per cent fewer than the previous year. Since April last year there have been seven evictions.

Figures produced by Liverpool John Moore's University show the number of 15 to 24-year-olds using heroin and or crack cocaine in Sandwell fell from 493 to 243 in two years up to 2012.

Relevant

This is attributed to better education for schoolchildren about the dangers of drugs but other factors such as stronger cannabis, cheaper alcohol, legal 'highs' and a generation more risk averse than their predecessors may also be relevant.

Maria Smith, the drugs project manager for Sandwell Council, said: "Hopefully this is the start of a long term trend because we are still dealing with the fall out from the national heroin epidemic of the 80s and 90s."

Neil Parkes, programme manager for drugs, alcohol and sexual health in the borough, said: "Drug and alcohol centres were seen as specialist units that were distant from the community but now people realise that it is everybody's problem.

"They very rarely turn up with just drug problems. We work with all the other agencies, such as health, children's services, the police and probation. Similar schemes are now operating throughout the country but we do it better than most.

Miss Smith concluded: "This is not about an individual agency. We have all combined to achieve this."

● Change – Page 21

SPRING SALE
● See - Page
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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EMAIL
sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Town's roads are still a total mess

WHEN Brierley Hill bypass was being built, we were told it would keep the town moving. Well, following it being opened I have given it time to work.

I have to say that today I decided to time how long it took me to travel from Level Street to clearing the junction of Mill Street the time was 11am and at 11.08 I cleared the junction. Eight minutes to travel 300 yards. There are seven sets of lights including pedestrian lights.

Travelling from Venture Way to Mill Street, traffic can turn right into Mill Street and when one vehicle is prevented from doing so because of oncoming traffic from Stourbridge the traffic builds up to near to the new college.

Then there is the pedestrian crossing fiasco at the Asda store. It must be the only junction in this country that you have to walk away from and then towards before you have even got halfway across. Still, the planners will not get the Pensnett Road widening scheme wrong will they?

P LOWE
Brierley Hill

TV licence not be all and end all

JUST what should we have expected.

Mr Jennings, Head of Regional and Local Programming at BBC West Midlands, thinks our licence is top value and lists a number of programmes that can be watched by everybody and not a selected few.

Well can I point out that Coronation Street and Emmerdale, Safe House, Downton Abbey, Britain's Got Talent and Live European Champions League Football are also available to everybody. Perhaps he has never heard of ITV, not to mention Channels 4 and Channel 5. Yes Mr Jennings all are free to view by everybody the big difference is we are not forced by law to pay to for them.

As to his comments about the radio I would point out to Mr Jennings that a licence is no longer needed to listen to the radio so including them is something of a red herring I feel. But no wonder he thought it was such good value, it is helping to pay his wages.

E J JOHNSON
Smethwick

Bus journeys getting increasingly chaotic

RECENTLY, bus journeys have become increasingly interesting. Has anybody else noticed this?

By interesting, I mean chaotic, bonkers, silly, even downright dangerous. Let me explain just a few of the incidents I have witnessed recently.

Firstly, there was the time a guy brought his dog on. The dog wasn't particularly badly behaved. He wanted to sniff everyone. But his owner was oblivious to it. And said dog was putting his head under people when they were trying to sit down. It visibly made one or two people very uncomfortable. Later on, said dog tripped his owner up. This resulted in an expletive-fuelled rant at the driver.Then, the very next day, three young teenage boys broke out in to three separate fights with each other up on the top deck of a double decker bus.

Now, some of us could have said something, admittedly. But who, after a long day at work, wants to run the risk of being involved by all three? Does that make us bad citizens?

On an almost daily basis there is also the problems with listening to other people's music. It's just rude.

Add this to the usual perils of bus travel and it is increasingly becoming a nightmare to negotiate. How much more do we have to put up with on commutes?

W O'SULLIVAN
New Invention

Don't shout at children

PLEASE can I issue an appeal for parents, however hassled and stressed they are, to stop shouting and swearing at their children in public.

It makes my blood run cold when I hear mothers speaking so harshly to their offspring, and seemingly about nothing as well.

I saw one little lad chasing a pigeon, only to be called away in the most fish-wife like of ways. He was told to be behave himself and a lot more besides.

How sad is that? He was just showing curiosity and maybe a little love of nature.

Parents should show a little more calm. To admonish so viciously is to plant the seed of more viciousness to follow – from the child himself next time.

Noisy parents – stand back and think how you must sound.

JAYNE SWANBOROUGH
Brierley Hill

ROK move is council's fault

I WROTE on November 11 last year to your newspaper, asking that Dudley Council stop dragging their feet over Dudley Hippodrome, and here we are six months later seeing the ROK Group frustrated at the lack of interest shown by the council, leading to ROK now withdrawing their offer of £8m.

Is it any wonder ROK are walking away? The people of Dudley will not forget this as the council will always be remembered for turning down £8m for what would have been a great venue and a big asset to Dudley.

B J & A BANNISTER
Tipton

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£353m Met Hospital plans are showcased

PLANS for a new £353 million super hospital in Smethwick will be showcased at a series of consultation events across Sandwell.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust has lodged a business plan for the Midland Metropolitan Hospital with the Department of Health and HM Treasury.

The scheme is set for final approval by the end of June, paving the way for a planning application to be submitted to Sandwell Council.

Health chiefs are taking the proposals around the borough to give people the chance to view them and make any comments.

Exciting

Alan Kenny, the trust's director of new hospital development, said: "This is an exciting stage in the development of the Midland Met Hospital."

Public exhibitions take place from 9am until 5pm at May 22 and 23 at City Hospital, on May 27 at Queen's Square, West Bromwich, on June 3 at the CAP Centre, Smethwick, on June 4 at Rowley Regis Hospital and on June 5 and 6 at Sandwell Hospital. The 670-bed hospital is due to take up 16 acres on Grove Lane but a further 31 acres of land between Grove Lane, Cranford Street, Heath Street and Dugdale Street is to be transformed and filled with other employment opportunities and housing schemes.

By Heather Large

The hospital will offer a high-tech critical care unit as well as dedicated neo-natal, paediatric beds, coronary care, adult acute assessment units. It will also have 13 operating theatres, 12 maternity delivery suites and six birthing centres as well as MRI & CT scanners, ultrasound facilities and outpatient clinics for maternity care and children.

The trust is also working on plans to offer a wider range of clinics and facilities at Rowley Regis Hospital.

Baggies fan Les in line for top award

Albion fan Les James, 89, who is in the running for the award, with Hawthorns legend Tony Brown

A WEST Bromwich Albion-mad pensioner who once signed himself out of hospital to watch his beloved Baggies has been shortlisted for a national award.

Les James, aged 89, from Smethwick, has followed the club for 67 years and is in the running to be named Facebook Fan of the Year.

Les has been following the club since 1948, when he was in the Fleet Air Arm, and he revealed he has gone to extraordinary lengths to watch his heroes in action.

"I had quite a spell of illnesses, mainly something to do with emphysema," he said. "I was in City Hospital and we were playing Liverpool. I signed myself out to go and watch the match. We lost 1-0.

"On another occasion I made myself that much of a nuisance during the week that they let me out to go and watch Albion play Manchester United. I went up the Hawthorns with a catheter on and when I came out I collapsed and finished up in Sandwell Hospital."

Les, who attends games in s blue and white jumper he made with late wife Dorothy, is up against 10 other fans.

Sandwell Families Big Picnic

Come and join in the fun at Sandwell Families Big Picnic!

All activities on the day are FREE and include:

- Animal Man
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Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

For further information please contact Sandwell Family Information Service
0121 569 4914

Sandwell Family Information Service

Councils' use of spy powers plummeting

THE use of controversial spy powers by councils has dramatically reduced, it has been revealed.

Black Country and Staffordshire councils used surveillance on residents 388 times between 2010 and the end of 2014.

But since November 2012, the use of the powers has plummeted since the law was tightened up to stop councils from snooping on people suspected of 'minor offences' such as dog fouling and littering.

Powers under the Regulatory Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) allow councils to place residents suspected of criminal activity under surveillance and even access phone and communications records.

Sandwell Council used RIPA powers 81 times in 2010, 58 times in 2011, 31 times in 2012, six times in 2013, and four times in 2014. Likewise Wolverhampton City Council used the powers 69 times in 2010 but just twice last year.

Dudley Council used it just twice in 2014, and Staffordshire County Council used it nine times. Lists revealed under Freedom of Information law shows councils used the spy powers on noisy neighbours, dog foulers, graffiti vandals, fly-tippers and fly-posterers.

But now councils can only target people suspected of a crime that carries a minimum six-month prison sentence with the exception of investigations into the sales of underage alcohol and tobacco.

Councillor Darren Cooper, leader of Sandwell Council, said: "We reviewed our use of RIPA in light of new government guidance and changes in legislation around which offences the powers could be used to investigate. This is the main reason we're not using it as much now. Our priority is to protect people from criminals – and we continue to use RIPA when there is no other option to gain evidence, for example in tackling rogue traders.""

Giraffe food at airport

Artist's impression of the new giraffe restaurant that opens at Birmingham Airport on Friday

GIRAFFE, the restaurant chain owned by Tesco, is to open a new site, tomorrow, Friday, catering for passengers at Birmingham Airport.

The restaurant, which will serve up to 173 people at a time once it opens, is part of a link-up between the concessions arm of The Restaurant Group (TRG) and giraffe which has already seen restaurants open at Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester and Dubai airports.

TRG has invested more than £1 million into the 3,800 sq ft Birmingham Airport giraffe.

The menu will include a range of all day breakfast dishes, a selection of sandwiches, burgers and salads as well as sharing platters and seasonal chef's specials, while smoothies, freshly-pressed juices and gourmet coffees and teas will be available throughout the day. Food will be cooked to order, with staff aiming to serve all dishes within 15 minutes.

Sam Anstey, giraffe's director of franchising and brand marketing, said: "We are proud to be partnering up again with The Restaurant Group Concessions and open at Birmingham Airport this month."

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Bill thrilled to get a garden in his honour

ONE town's residents will be able to celebrate one of their community heroes with strawberries, tomatoes and green beans grown in their own back yard.

A new garden has been unveiled in honour of former Wednesbury councillor Bill Archer who served the town for 36 years.

The Bill Archer Community Secret Garden opened last week in the grounds of the town hall, in Holyhead Road. It is the brainchild of Wednesbury Celebrates Community Association and features numerous planters that have been donated by the group and members of the public.

Mr Archer, now 88, stepped down from Sandwell Council in 2010 due to health and family reasons. He thanked the group for their kind gesture and said he would love to see youngsters from the town visit the project to help look after the fruit and veg seedlings.

"I would like to thank Olwen Jones for coming up with this idea. I would like to challenge the children of the town to show that they can do more than sit in front of a computer and get digging in the garden. It would be great to see them spend time down here and doing gardening."

The association has not received any funding towards the garden.

His daughter Elaine Costigan, a Labour councillor, said: "The secret garden was an idea put forward by Olwen to give something back to my dad for what he has done for Wednesbury over the years which is a lovely gesture.

"Everything here has been donated. Members of the public have brought us strawberries, green beans and tomatoes to put in the garden which has been lovely."

From left , Olwen Jones, Bill Archer, Mick Wheatley and Elaine Costigan

Riding high with stunts

THRILL-SEEKERS can keep their feet firmly on the ground while enjoying the perils of extreme stunts when an action-packed show comes to Sandwell Valley Country Park.

The Extreme Stunt Show – Air Battle is set to wow crowds with air battles between BMX, mountain and FMX bikes as well as quads in a two-day extravaganza.

Monster beasts will compete on the runway in the Extreme Arena which will be set up in the park on May 29 and May 30 for the evening shows.

Extreme BMX and FMX teams will fly through the air with riders showcasing their tricks and cliff hangers in gravity-defying stunts.

Showtimes are on Friday May 29 at 7.30pm and at 6pm on Saturday May 30. Advance tickets cost £12 adults and £6 children. On the gate tickets cost £14 adults and £7 children.

For more information call 0203 375 6506 (10am-5pm) and for tickets call 08444 771000 or www.ticketweb.com

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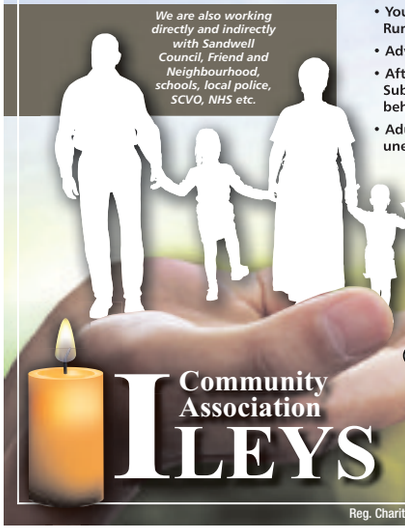
HERE TO SERVE OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Ileys is a not for profit organisation that provides the children, youth and families of black minority ethnic origin fo Smethwick and surrounding areas with a full range of human services, from advice to leisure. We deal with such critical issues as homelessness, substance abuse, delinquency, racism, extremism, delayed education and unemployment.

Ileys is presently made up of six programs that serve the varied needs of the community, including:



- Youth activities: Weekend sports and recreational activities. Running workshops on drug awareness sessions.
- Advice Program: drop-in advice and information service
- After-school club: tuition, Arabic and Somali language. Substance Awareness program: drug and anti social behaviour awareness for youth ages 18 and younger
- Adult Skills Development: Train-to-work program for unemployed. ESOL and language courses
- Family Health and Fitness: Complete community sports experience which is affordable and available for all interested participants, women (FGM)
- Inter-community cohesion: Networking and cross community communication program whose sole purpose is understanding other communities better.

Community Association ILEYS

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Eye consultant Arijit who fulfilled dream

MANY of us have dreams of what we'd like to be, and some are even lucky enough to achieve our ambitions.

Fortunately for us, this is true for eye consultant Arijit Mitra, who as a child dreamed of helping vulnerable people regain their vision, and is today one of the emerging consultant ophthalmologists at Birmingham and Midland Eye Centre (BMEC).

Arijit, aged 39, worked as a trainee at BMEC from 2007 to 2011 before undertaking his fellowship in Manchester for a year.

He then came back to work at BMEC in 2012 as a consultant.

During his training program at BMEC, he won a number of rewards for his outstanding work, including the Roper Hall Prize Medal and the Midlands Opthalmological Society Travel Award.

Mr Mitra has a special interest in vitreo-retinal surgery and medical retina.

Rewarding

When asking about what motivates him at work, he says: "I love the nature of my job. It is very challenging as the cases are usually very complex.

"However, whenever I help patients regain their vision, I find the job absolutely rewarding. It makes me feel that I have made such a positive difference to someone's life."

"Being an eye doctor has always been my dream.

"One of the memorable moments in my career was when I successfully carried out surgery on a patient, who is the husband of the former Sandwell mayor.

"After seeing the care that we delivered to her husband and other patients, she chose BMEC as one of her two charities of the year, helping us to raise money to improve the care at BMEC."

Mr Mitra has been helping BMEC to set up the Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital Alumni Association, which aims to create a network to connect all previous BMEC consultants.

The association organises annual scientific events for the alumni.

This is seen as an opportunity for all the leading consultants to share best practice with each other, helping their colleagues improve their profession.

He has also co-authored a book on the history of Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital.

Mr Mitra explained: "BMEC is one of the largest eye hospitals in Europe.

"We have a great team working together to provide the best service possible to our patients.

"The team has always been very supportive and friendly to me, ever since I was a trainee.

They provide such a nurturing environment where you can freely discuss your opinion and knowledge with your colleagues and become better every day."

Mr Mitra is now living in Harborne with his wife and two daughters.

Outside work, he focuses solely on his family.

He would like to travel to the Himalayas in his home country to explore that part of the world and to learn about the life of the locals.

Mr Mitra's heroes are his parents, who have always encouraged him to unlock his potential and achieve his dream.

NHS HEROES

ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes of the NHS, from a wide variety of backgrounds doing a wide variety of jobs.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust is one of the Black Country's largest NHS organisations.

It employs 7,500 people, many of whom live locally.

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Three people are hurt in four-car collision

Emergency services attend the scene at Cemetery Road, near Oldbury following a four-car crash

THREE people were taken to hospital following a four-car crash near Oldbury. Police and ambulance crews were called to Cemetery Road at its junction with Rood End Road near West Smethwick Park at around 9.10am on Monday.

A spokesman for West Midlands Ambulance Service said they had dealt with drivers and passengers from three of the cars involved. A woman and her son were able to climb out of their car but the woman had suffered a fractured wrist and the boy had abdominal 'tenderness'. Both were taken to Sandwell Hospital for treatment.

A man from a second car was taken to City Hospital as a precaution and the occupant of a third car declined treatment and made their own way home.

Two ambulances, a rapid response paramedic and a paramedic area support officer in a rapid response vehicle attended the scene. Drivers faced delays near the accident which happened during Monday's wet conditions.

£100k set to be saved on bill for allowances

COUNCILLORS' allowances in Sandwell have been slashed by £100,000 after a review of their pay.

Members had already voted not to increase their 'basic' allowance for the year, saving the cash-strapped authority £31,000. A further £69,000 will now be saved by scrapping several 'special responsibility' allowances.

These are paid to councillors who take on additional roles within the authority.

The decision is set to be rubber-stamped by the council later this month following a review of allowances carried out by council leader Darren Cooper.

"The next few years are not going to get any easier for local government and we need to do our bit," he said.

"The reason I have pushed this through is I did not think it was fair to carry on as we were, given the cuts the council is experiencing.

"It is also the fact our staff have suffered. Remember we have lost 2,000 over the last five years."

Under the changes, the council's deputy mayor will no longer receive additional payment for the role. Six town-based improvement panels have also been scrapped meaning payments for their chairs and vice-chairs will no longer be made.

By Rob Cox

Councillor Cooper said he made the latest changes following consultation with council staff, but did not want to announce his intentions before the recent elections so it could not be perceived as a ploy to win votes.

He added: "One of the things which came out from the consultation with staff is they asked 'what have members done to contribute to the cuts?'. That was a legitimate questions for them to ask."

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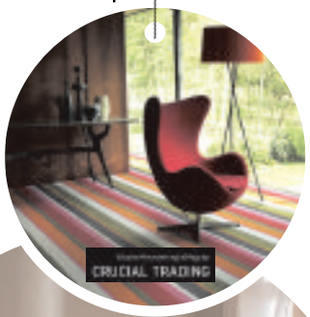

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Cadet set for African adventure

A CADET has been chosen as a national finalists for an awards scheme featuring an expedition to South Africa.

James Clarke, aged 17, of 888 (Oldbury) Squadron Air Training Corps, is one of nine to reach the final of CVQO Duke of Westminster Award.

James Clarke

James, of Halesowen, will join the other cadets on a two-week educational trip in July. One will be crowned overall winner at a lunch ceremony at the House of Lords on June 30.

James competed with 24 others to be chosen a challenging four-day selection event in Somerset.

"I can't wait to go to South Africa," said James.

Firm to rise from ashes

THE boss of the Oldbury plastics factory that was devastated by a huge fire said he was determined to ensure the business would rise from the ashes.

Firefighters tackled the blaze at Teknor Apex in Tat Bank Road for more than 16 hours and after 29 workers were forced to flee.

Operations manager Roger Davies said he was determined the blaze would not signal the end of the business.

FOCUS ON OLDBURY

Jobs boost as firm reveals plans for £350k expansion

A MANUFACTURING firm in Oldbury has revealed plans for a £350,000 expansion to boost business and create new jobs.

Accurate Laser Cutting on Hainge Road is doubling the size of its base following a surge in demand for its specialist services. The firm specialises in laser-cutting and press-braking.

It is also spending £1million on new equipment to help increase its production.

By Heather Large

The latest investment follows spending on two laser cutting machines and a press-brake machine used for bending sheet and plate material in 2012.

The firm, which also has a depot in Rotherham, south Yorkshire, says the expansion plans will create at least five new jobs.

Depots

Bosses say they want the Oldbury base to be a 'one-stop' shop for a wide range of metal cutting, folding and bending services.

The firm currently has 30 staff at its Hainge Road site and hopes to open more depots across the UK in the coming years.

Director Steve Morgan said: "Our previous technological investments have proved a huge success with production rates increasing by 40 per cent.

"We are confident that the expansion of our premises combined with further investments in the very latest equipment will further intensify our impact on the manufacturing industry, creating bigger and better opportunities for us in the future."

Fellow director Jon Till said 2015 was fast becoming an exciting year for Accurate Laser.

He added: "The long term plan is to increase production levels by 50 per cent and eventually have a manufacturing base in every major city within the UK.

"We are confident that our decision to invest in these innovative facilities will enable us to penetrate new industries and offer our customers the very best in quality, service and price."

Plans are also underway to equip the new facility with an eco-friendly bio mass boiler.

Trust strikes gold for safety standards

Nine years in a row – workers at Portway Lifestyle Centre in Oldbury celebrate winning a RoSPA 2015 Gold Award

SANDWELL Leisure Trust has won a clean bill of health and safety for its efforts to stop accidents at work.

It has been named among the winners in the RoSPA Occupational Health and Safety Awards 2015.

The Gold Medal award in the annual scheme run by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) will be presented in Birmingham on July 15.

The Oldbury-based leisure trust has won nine gold awards throughout the years. Sandwell Leisure Trust chief executive Paul Slater said: "Maintaining this national award for health and safety over nine consecutive years demonstrates the trust's firm commitment towards providing safe services and facilities for all our customers to enjoy."

The majority of RoSPA's awards are non-competitive, grading achievement at merit, bronze, silver and gold levels. Organisations that maintain high standards in consecutive years can win gold medals, president's awards and orders of distinction.

Sandwell Leisure Trust manages leisure and sports services on behalf of the Sandwell council.

Set up in 2004, the trust now runs eight leisure centres in Sandwell and and will be managing the new £8 million Wednesbury Leisure Centre when it opens later this year.

Families can return to Funhouse

A WACKY TV children's show is making a comeback after 16 years – thanks to an Oldbury pub.

The One & Two Halves, in Joseph Street, Warley, is urging families to take part in a challenge based on 90s favourite Funhouse.

Pat and co

It returns for one day only, complete with original hosts Pat Sharp and twins Melanie and Martina on June 13. Families of four are being sought.

Top prize is a family holiday worth £1,000.

Parents can nominate themselves and a child before the deadline of midnight on May 30, at www.fayre-square.com and winners will be notified after the competition has closed.

Mess about on the water

MORE than 60 boats will descend on a stretch of canal at an annual rally this weekend.

Birmingham Canal Navigations Society will host the gathering at its headquarters at Titford Pumphouse in Oldbury on Saturday and Sunday, from 11am until 4pm. Admission is free.

There will be boat trips along the canal to Langley giving the chance for a short cruise along the Titford Canal.

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Bulldozers in to raze factory to the ground

A LANDMARK factory near Great Barr which shut leaving 220out of work has been demolished after almost two years of uncertainty.

Tucker Fasteners, in Walsall Road, shut in 2013 when production was moved overseas.

The Unite union had put forward proposals to move the factory to a new purpose-built site to save 70 jobs. It had won support from from Birmingham City Council and Perry Barr MP Khalid Mahmood.

However, parent company Stanley Black & Decker said they had to close the factory, which made fasteners and screw machine products, because manufacturing levels had almost halved in the past decade in the face of increased competition from rivals in the Far East.

Piles of bricks now occupy areas of the nine-acre site close to Perry Barr greyhound stadium.

All the factory's internal finishes, fittings, and equipment have been removed.

Production had taken place on site since 1903 producing rivets, fasteners and other metal products.

It had also played a role in producing items for use on planes during the Second World War.

After it was shut down, production at the site was switched to Germany and the United States.

The former Tucker Fasteners Factory in Walsall Road, Great Barr is flattened

Convicted rapist in bid to clear his name

A MAN serving life behind bars for rape is fighting to clear his name and has taken his case of the court of appeal.

Benjamin Hezekiah O'Meally was ordered to serve at least eight years and nine months behind bars after being found guilty of rape at Wolverhampton Crown Court in September 2009.

His lawyers are urging London's Criminal Appeal Court to overturn the 'unsafe' verdict.

Three top judges are looking into the case following an investigation by the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

John Butterfield, O'Meally's QC, said the commission found O'Meally's accuser had lied on oath during an earlier case. But O'Meally's defence lawyers were not told about that during his trial, the court heard.

O'Meally was living at the Sycamore Lodge bail hostel, in Clay Lane, Langley, at the time of the offence.

Ex-criminal is counting on change of career

ONE of Sandwell's 50 most prolific criminals has turned his life around and is now on his way to becoming an accountant.

The 24-year-old was part of a gang of thieves involved in a crime wave during which 200 house burglaries were reported around the Hamstead area of Great Barr between 2006 and 2009.

On September 30 2009 Jack – not his real name – was convicted of burglary and given a nine month jail youth custody sentence suspended for a year. Six months later he was locked up for 16 months on March 5, 2010 for burglary with nine offences to be taken into consideration.

On April 10, 2012 'Jack' was convicted of a further burglary and put behind bars for three years. He was freed on a tag under the early release scheme 15 months later.

by John Scott

Blitz

In less than two years, 'Jack' has now managed to get back on the straight and narrow, thanks to an offender management scheme.

An offender management officer – a detective who had worked on the team who investigated the Hamstead burglary blitz – together with probation and the Princes Trust scheme had been working with 'Jack' for some time. The officer said: "He had not been prepared to be rehabilitated after completing earlier sentences but the penny must have dropped this time."

For the second week of his course, a team-building exercise, police needed special permission from the Home Office to change the address to which he was tagged.

The officer added: "He went from strength to strength and by the time they returned he was leading the group and really enjoying it. He is a bright lad and was now channelling that in the right direction."

The next stage in the 12 week course was a work placement with a large construction company during which he did heavy manual work and showed sufficient talent for the firm to give him a two year apprenticeship.

Police helped to find accommodation away from the area where he had lived which allowed him to break away from his former associates.

The work went so well he was allowed to transfer to the firm's offices and is also studying at college. The apprenticeship ends shortly and he ultimately hopes to be an accountant. Sgt Colin Gallier from the Offender Management team based at West Bromwich police station said: "This shows the level of investment and the benefits it can bring to the individual."

Passers-by to rescue after car overturns

GOOD Samaritans pushed an overturned car back onto its wheels following a crash in Smethwick.

The car had ended up on its side, and, thinking they could smell leaking fuel, the group of passers-by took immediate action which allowed the driver to climb to safety.

The woman, in her 20s, had sustained an arm injury and was suffering back pain. She was given pain relief before being taken to Sandwell Hospital for further checks.

A West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman said: "In potentially life-threatening situations such as this case, the passers-by acted with good intentions.

"Members of the public are, however, asked to be careful when at the scene of road traffic collisions."

Two cars were involved in the crash at the junction of Manor Road and Victoria Road in Smethwick at around 11.30am on Monday, May 11. The other car had left the scene before ambulance crews had arrived.

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

THE owners of a premier group of parks in the Heart of England & Mid Wales are opening their gates next week to welcome visitors who want to explore the idea of holiday home ownership.

The aptly named "Bestparks" group are hosting a Showcase Weekend from May 30 to June 1 at all of their six, first class country parks.

This family-owned group prides itself on operating a range of parks that never compromise on the Bestparks 5 star standards.

Proud

"What sets us apart from our competitors is that we have parks within our group that can match most holiday home owner's needs"explained Alwyn Jones, founder of the business and father to Wayne and Glenn who both run their own Bestparks.

"Some people want more facilities for families, whilst others want small and intimate country retreats. Within the Bestparks group we are able to deliver on all counts!"

The proud father continued "Wayne and Sarah's park – Poston Mill – is unrivalled in the area for location and park facilities, whilst Pearl Lake run by Glenn and Hannah is a luxury country park set around a breathtaking 15-acre glacier lake."

Other parks include The Smithy in Mid Wales, which is popular with people from the Midlands wanting a high quality halfway point for the coast; Arrow Bank a small select park in the historical village of Eardisland; Westbrook a touring park near Ludlow and Rockbridge Park at Presteigne which also has park homes for sale.

The open weekend is a chance for all six parks to showcase themselves and their facilities and an opportunity for visitors to view the wide range of holiday homes on display.

Each park will be hosting events over the weekend and as all the parks are within an hour's drive of each other visitors have a great opportunity to also enjoy this beautiful region.

You can download a show guide and free tickets for the events at www.bestparks.co.uk

Lovely setting from these luxury holiday homes

Mapping out bleak future for Labour

DANIEL WAINWRIGHT
Political Editor

WITHOUT the Liberal Democrats to stop them, the Tories will want to resurrect their review of Parliamentary boundaries – and Labour will suffer for it.

David Cameron decided years ago he wanted to reduce the cost of politics and get rid of 50 out of 650 MPs.

But the redrawing of boundaries hurts Labour's chances of recovering from their General Election defeat.

The Boundary Commission's revisions have been archived since 2013 because the Lib Dems refused to go along with them – punishment for the Tories not backing their reform of the House of Lords. The main casualties are areas like Sandwell and Wolverhampton.

Moved

The Tory seats in southern Staffordshire are largely unchanged, although true blue Stone becomes West Staffordshire and gets a bit of Labour Stoke on Trent South added to it.

There are a few bits of South Staffordshire that get moved in Stafford, but nothing to give Gavin Williamson or Jeremy Lefroy cause for concern.

Wolverhampton North East, the seat held by Labour's Emma Reynolds, gets carved up between a new Wolverhampton East, Wolverhampton West and a new Walsall West.

Tom Watson and Emma Reynolds will lose out in the boundary changes

West Bromwich East, held by Tom Watson, also gets split up. Both are big hitters – Miss Reynolds as shadow communities and local government secretary, Mr Watson as a contender for Labour's deputy leadership.

There was no way David Cameron could have had anything to do with the way in which the political maps were redrawn. But when it comes to holding onto his seats in the Black Country, he could not have planned an advantage for 2020 better if he had tried. Suddenly the result for Labour looks even more bleak.

In the wake of the council elections there is now only one Labour district councillor in the whole of South Staffordshire. The Tories are so strong there that 14 seats did not even get put to the public vote because no-one challenged their candidates. They now hold 43 out of the 49 seats. Although I'm always wary of one-party authorities or those where the opposition is so small as to be utterly ineffective, there's no getting away from the fact the Conservatives are clearly the ones people wanted, just as in Sandwell, where 71 out of 72 seats belong to Labour.

Our new intake of MPs have spent the week getting themselves settled in to the Commons.

Dudley South Conservative Mike Wood celebrated his victory with his family. His daughter and a friend had a joint birthday party so Mr Wood escorted around 20 six and seven-year-olds around Dudley Zoo.

Compared with the barking, braying and childish histrionics of the House, I'd imagine it was the height of grown up sophistication.

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Leddra Chapman
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Novana
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The Elvis Years
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The Chuckles of Oz
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Pitschi – The Kitten With Dreams
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Keith Shebada Ramsey In ...
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The New Adventures of Puss In Boots
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Fri, Sat at 8pm, Tue, Wed, Thu at 8pm, £10
The Old Joint Stock,
Birmingham, B2 5NY.
Call 0121 200 1892

DANCE

35th Anniversary Gala
Fri, Sat at 7.30pm,
Sat at 2.30pm, £10.50 - £58
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Lord of the Dance: Dangerous Games
Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon,
Tue at 8pm, Sat,
Sun at 2.30pm, £33 - £43.50
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

COMEDY

Jeremy Hardy
Fri at 8pm, £5 - £16.50
The Wulfrun, Wolverhampton, WV1 3HH. Call 01902 552106

All Stars of Comedy International
Sun at 6.45pm, £17.50
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

OTHER EVENTS

The Quiz
Tue at 7.30pm, Free
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

Stories from the Punjab...
Thu at 2.30pm, £3 - £4
Newhampton Arts Centre,
Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
Call 01902 572090

Dark Tales from India
Thu at 7.30pm, £5 - £6
Newhampton Arts Centre,
Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
Call 01902 572090

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Get set for those Good Vibrations

Fans can get into a surfing feelgood mood with a string of Beach Boys hits

CALIFORNIAN surfing feelgood music from the golden age of the 60s and 70s will be coming to Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena next week.

The Beach Boys have been through it all in their career, spanning five decades; deaths, court battles, line-up changes and walk-outs –there isn't much they haven't seen or done. Surfin' USA, Little Deuce Coupe, God Only Knows and Good Vibrations are just some of the songs on their never-ending list of hits. Fans will be able to turn back the clock at the Arena next Friday (29).

Inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1988 and recipients of The Recording Academy's Lifetime Achievement Grammy Award, The Beach Boys are an American institution that is iconic around the world.

The touring band is led by original member Mike Love and Bruce Johnston, who joined in 1965, alongside supporting musicians John Cowsill, Tim Bonhomme, Randell Kirsch, Scott Totten and Christian Love.

Out and About and loving it

Tour seen by two million fans around the world

IN the first 18 months since its launch, Paul's McCartney's Out There tour has been seen by almost two million people around the world.

And after this year's chart-topping collaborations with Kanye West and Rihanna and performance at the Grammys, Paul announced plans to bring the tour back to Europe for nine special dates, including one at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena.

So far, this tour has seen Paul and his band perform a total of 64 shows in 12 different countries in venues of all different shapes and sizes.

Album

And no doubt the Birmingham date next Wednesday (27) will again attract a sell-out crowd.

The 'Out There' tour features music from one of the best-loved catalogues in popular music, including Let it Be, Hey Jude, Live and Let Die, Band on the Run and Ebony and Ivory.

Paul will perform songs that span his entire career – as a solo artist, member of Wings and of course as a Beatle. The set list will also include material from Paul's most recent studio album New, which was a global hit upon its release in 2013.

Lord of the Dance gets futuristic twist

THE Lord of the Dance phenomenon enters a new phase with Dangerous Games, directed by Michael Flatley and featuring a new generation of dancers who update Irish dance tradition.

World, British and All-Ireland dance champion Birmingham's Megan Kerrigan is part of the 40-strong ensemble in the sci-fi sequel to Riverdance with robots and holograms that, despite hi-tech innovation, is drawn from folklore. Morgan Comer stars as the Lord of the Dance with Tom Cunningham as the Dark Lord.

It is at Symphony Hall from tomorrow (Friday) to Tuesday, plus weekend matinees. Prices start at £33. See www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 345 0600.

Great songs and satirical comedy

SINGER Lorna Luft will be celebrating the music of her mother when she performs The Songbook of Judy Garland at the New Alexandra Theatre from tonight to Saturday. Helping her will be special guests, crooner Ray Quinn and Wicked star Louise Dearman.

Jeremy Hardy regularly takes a satirical look at middle class mores and the establishment in his BBC show Jeremy Hardy Speaks To The Nation. He is also known for his self-deprecating turns on I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue and takes a swipe at current events on The News Quiz. His stand-up show is at the Wulfrun Hall tomorrow night.

Counting on Crows for one-off concert

CALIFORNIAN rock band Counting Crows are coming to Wolverhampton Civic Hall for the only British concert hall date of their European tour.

Fronted by singer Adam Duritz, the band have sold more than 20 million albums since exploding onto the scene with their album August and Everything After in 1993, including the hit single Mr Jones.

They recently released their seventh album, Somewhere Under Wonderland.

Tickets for their Wednesday, June 10, concert in Wolverhampton cost £41.25 including fees. See www.wolvescivic.co.uk or call 0970 320 7000.

Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, May 21, 2015

Pub is ploughing ahead

LEIGH SANDERS popped into the Plough & Harrow at Aldridge, near Walsall, and was impressed with what he found

Highly recommended – the Plough and Harrow has interesting menu options

Warm and friendly atmosphere greets you on arrival

What did it feel like?

This is a great little pub, which has been stylishly refurbished to maximise the comfortable dining experience.

The lighting is just right, the décor big without being too bold. There are huge hanging decorations and a glass wine lock-up situated in the middle to get the connoisseurs fidgeting in their seats.

They have fitted a number of tables in to the space available, but the way they are laid out never makes you feel cramped.

How were the staff?

Dressed in a smart-casual manner they were attentive, professional and friendly from the start. They chatted about drinks and food and hinted at recommendations without trying to push you towards any given dish.

The place was fairly busy, yet they kept the level of service throughout other than the dessert menus being left with us a little too long before we were able to get the bill.

What did you start with?

The deep-fried crusted Somerset brie was a delight. It came with an apricot and cumin chutney which had a nice tang to it and cut through the smoothness of the cheese.

We also opted for the salt and Szechuan pepper squid, complete with cucumber ribbons and garlic aioli. The amount of pepper sprinkled in was perfect and the squid itself was just the right texture. It was a delightful start to the evening.

What came next?

The garlic and buttermilk battered halloumi is a must-try. It comes with twice-cooked chunky chips, homemade pea purée and a tartare sauce. The latter is not your standard fare. Thick in texture and with a really vibrant flavour it complimented the halloumi well.

The chips, however, could have been a little warmer. They had perhaps been sat too long before being brought out to the table. However, they still tasted great and, again, stood head and shoulders above other pub grub efforts.

We also ordered Dauphinoise potatoes on the side, which were a little dry towards the bottom but on the whole were as you would want them – soft and creamy.

What was the other main course?

We also selected the slow-cooked British beef and Black Sheep Ale pie.

The pastry was gorgeous and there was plenty of filling to get stuck into.

At first it seemed as if the ale had made it a little too runny, but as this soaked into the pastry it became clear these fears were unfounded and there was plenty to dip your other ingredients into for extra flavour. These consisted of borage, honey roasted carrots and a healthy dollop of kale and cabbage mashed potato.

The mashed potato in particular was well done. It was thick and creamy, and with the vegetables mixed in it gave it a good consistency that could mop up some of that remaining sauce from the pie.

But no desserts on this occasion?

No, time was against us unfortunately. But not that the menu didn't do its best to get us to stay longer. There is a real variety for those with a sweet tooth.

The winter berry Eton Mess sounded delightful.

A good night then?

Definitely. Well-priced and with great food and service. We will be back.

GREETS GREEN SPORTS BAR

29th May
The Jam Tribute

11th June
Motown Tribute Night with Rod Stewart, Gary Barlow and Claire Mac

12th June
The Soul Survivors

26th June
80s Tribute Band and prizes for Fancy Dress

10th July
The Bootleg Bee Gees

24th July
The Boys Are Back - Olly Murs, Michael Buble and Bruno Mars

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SKY SPORTS BT Sport

More than a Sports Bar

Stuart Cleaver took over the club last year as has re-vamped the place, it is a nice friendly club, a great atmosphere.

Amanda took over as Bar Manager in January 2015 to organise the club and says "it's been a pleasure as I'm a local girl, my dad used to play for West Bromwich Albion" and it's nice as all the customers knew my dad and they are all dedicated fans and customers.

Stuart has turned the club around and the function room turns into the "live lounge" on tribute nights.

We have a lot of different acts ranging from the 80's up wards all at £5 entry, starts around 8.30pm, when the tribute act has finished it's followed by a disco, we serve until 1.00am, club closes at 1.30am.

The function room caters for all parties, weddings, birthday parties , funerals and christening.

The hire of the room is £100 plus £50 deposit in which you get back as long as the room is in good order.

We offer hot and cold buffets at £4 (cold) and £7 (hot), we also have a cafe that is open 6 days a week 7.30am - 1.00pm, serving breakfast, lunch and sandwiches, hot and cold drinks, at decent prices (the best breakfast for miles).

We do a carvery on a Sunday serving from "12 - 5". Four meats and a large selection of fresh vegetables, all homemade (even mash). £5.99 Adults, £3.99 Children.

We also offer starters and desserts at £2.99 each. We offer table service too.

Bar

We have a large range of beers and guest ales all at affordable prices. Show all sports and football matches. £2 pint of Carling when "Albion" games are showing.

We are open 7 days a week, everyone is welcome, even kids. Serving from 11.30am to 11.30pm Sunday to Thursday and 11.30am to 1.30pm Friday and Saturday.

We hold dart competitions every other Sunday, next one to be held this Sunday 24th May 2015.

Big cash prizes to be won, we have celebrity darts players attend, great day, great atmosphere £5 entry (look out on ou FB page for details.

We have entertainment on every Saturday which is free. Different singers and the odd disco. Warm friendly people, it's the place to be!

101 WHITEHALL ROAD, WEST BROMWICH B70 0HG • Tel 0121 557 1388

CHOICE

Electro Velvet

Eurovision Song Contest BBC1, 8pm

Graham Norton comments on all the action from the Wiener Stadthalle in Vienna, Austria, as the 60th annual Eurovision Song Contest reaches its grand final. Last year's winner Conchita Wurst hears from the current crop of stars in the green room, including the confirmed finalists in the form of Austria's home act the Makemakes, Austalia's Guy Sebastian, French singer Lisa Angell, Germany's Ann Sophie, Italian pop-opera trio Il Volo, Spain's Edurne, and the UK's own pop duo Electro Velvet. Back in the studio in London, a surprise spokesperson will announce which acts the United Kingdom favours as results from across Europe are gathered.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. A look ahead at the day's events. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00 Film:** Father of the Bride Part II. (1995) A put-upon dad is plunged into a midlife crisis as he deals with the news that his daughter is having a baby – and so is his wife. Comedy sequel, with Steve Martin and Diane Keaton. **3.40** Escape to the Continent. A recently married couple hoping to move to Valencia. (R) **4.40** Celebrity Mastermind. With Chris van Tulleken, Denise Robertson, Milton Jones and Adele Silva. (R) **5.10** Formula 1: Monaco Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. Action from the battle for pole position at the Circuit de Monaco in Monte Carlo, where the sixth round of the season takes place.

6.45 BBC News.

6.55 Regional Programme.

7.00 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins – Eurovision Special. Game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. The first couple to win two rounds get to play for £50,000 and each time the champions defeat a new set of opponents their winnings mount up. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

8.00 Eurovision Song Contest. Graham Norton narrates as the 60th annual Eurovision Song Contest reaches its grand final. The action comes live from the Wiener Stadthalle in Vienna, Austria, where Mirjam Weichselbraun, Alice Tumler and Arabella Kiesbauer will be overseeing the event as hosts.

11.35 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.

11.55 Peter Kay's Car Share. Kayleigh is tasked to promote national blackcurrant jam week, so John encourages her by offering plenty of unwanted advice. Wry comedy, co-written by and starring Peter Kay and Sian Gibson. Last in the series. (R)

12.25 Film: Win a Date with Tad Hamilton! (2004) A supermarket checkout girl wins a date with a film star, much to the annoyance of her lovesick best friend. Romantic comedy, starring Kate Bosworth, Topher Grace and Josh Duhamel. **1.55** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 Film: A Walk in the Sun. (1945) **8.10 Film:** Jubal. (1956) **9.50** Animal Park. (R) **10.50** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.50** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **12.50** Hitch. **1.50** Shirley MacLaine: Talking Pictures. (R) **2.35 Film:** The Trouble with Harry. (1955) Black comedy, starring Edmund Gwenn. **4.10** F1 Rewind: Title Battles. **5.10** Flog It! (R) **5.30** Britain's Greatest Generation. (R)

6.30 Golf: PGA Highlights. Hazel Irvine presents highlights of the third round of the PGA Championship, the European Tour event that takes place on the West Course at the Wentworth Club in Surrey. Eventual champion Rory McIlroy was tied for fourth following the third round of last year's tournament, on an overall score of eight-under-par, and had a lot of ground to make up being seven shots behind leader Thomas Bjorn. Commentary comes from Peter Alliss, Ken Brown and Andrew Cotter.

7.30 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring puts the defence of the realm before personal pride, resulting in problems. Classic comedy with the Home Guard, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)

8.00 RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2015. Monty Don and Joe Swift anticipate the sounding of the bell that announces the end of this year's event, and begins the Great Chelsea sell-off. While they wait, they provide viewers with another chance to relive highlights from the BBC's coverage of the show throughout the last week.

9.00 Film: Great Expectations. (2012) Premiere. A penniless orphan is chosen by a reclusive spinster to be a playmate for her cold-hearted ward, whom he falls in love with. As he grows up, a mysterious benefactor offers him the chance to rise into high society, but dark secrets lie behind both the object of his adoration and his newfound fortune. Period drama based on Charles Dickens' novel, starring Jeremy Irvine, Helena Bonham Carter and Ralph Fiennes.

11.00 The Many Faces of Michael Crawford. A profile of the actor and singer best known for his portrayal of Frank Spencer in Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em and playing the title role in the first run of The Phantom of the Opera. (R)

12.00 Film: Man of the Year. (2006) **1.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** Doc Martin. (R) **1.35** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **2.40 Film:** Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. (2001) Fantasy adventure, starring Daniel Radcliffe. **5.30** Regional Programme; Weather. **5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 New You've Been Framed! Unleashed. Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful-looking accidents.

7.00 Ninja Warrior UK. Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara provide the show's most successful competitors with another chance to prove their skills in the second adrenaline-fuelled semi-final.

8.00 Britain's Got Talent. Members of the public are given one last chance to prove their worth as entertainers in the final round of auditions. As always, Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, Alesha Dixon and David Walliams are on hand to appraise their performances, but once this stage of the contest is completed, the judges must then move on to the much more demanding process of whittling down this year's crop of contestants for the live shows. Ant and Dec host proceedings, introducing the contenders and taking viewers backstage ahead of the nail-biting performances.

9.20 Play to the Whistle. Pat Cash, Bob Mortimer and Natalie Anderson join Frank Lampard and Bradley Walsh as Holly Willoughby hosts one last round of the sports-based comedy show. Last in the series.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Film: Mickey Blue Eyes. (1999) A strait-laced Englishman falls for a New York mobster's daughter, and is reluctantly drawn into the family business. Romantic comedy, starring Hugh Grant and Jeanne Tripplehorn.

12.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Volkswagen Racing Cup. (R) **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.35** Frasier. (R) **11.05** Frasier. (R) **11.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.35** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Haydock Park, Goodwood and the Curragh. **4.15** Come Dine with Me. First aid manager Jacqui hosts the first dinner party in Perth. (R) **4.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.50** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. It is the final day in Perth, and Craig's turn to throw a dinner party. He hopes that his land and sea menu will see him score highly, but Daniel and Jenna's quarrel continues. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Walking Through History: North Norfolk. Tony Robinson travels along the north Norfolk coast, finding out how the area maintained its rural identity despite the industrial changes of the Victorian age. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 The World's Most Extreme. An exploration of 10 of the most extraordinary tunnels on Earth, including those at the US-Mexico border that are often used to smuggle drugs. Last in the series.

9.00 Film: Rise of the Planet of the Apes. (2011) A scientist carries out genetic experiments on apes, hoping to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease. A chimpanzee used in the tests develops superior intelligence and becomes outraged at the human race's cruel treatment of his kind, forming his fellow primates into an army to overthrow mankind. Sci-fi thriller, starring James Franco, Freida Pinto and Andy Serkis.

11.10 Film: Savages. (2012) Premiere. Two marijuana dealers attract the attention of a Mexican drug cartel that kidnaps their shared girlfriend. Crime drama, starring Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Taylor Kitsch, Blake Lively and Salma Hayek.

1.35 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **2.30** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.45** SuperScrimpers. (R) **5.00** Phil: Secret Agent Down Under. (R) **5.55** How I Met Your Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **10.50** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **11.50 Film:** Columbo: Mind Over Mayhem. (1974) **1.25 Film:** The Great Escape. (1963) Second World War drama, starring Steve McQueen. **4.45 Film:** Anzio. (1968) Second World War drama, starring Robert Mitchum.

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v New Zealand. Mark Nicholas presents highlights of the third day in the first Test of the two-match series, which takes place at Lord's. With commentary by Nicholas, Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott and Simon Hughes.

7.55 What the Dambusters Did Next. Documentary combining testimony from veterans, original archive footage, expert views and dramatic reconstructions to examine the missions undertaken by the RAF's 617 Squadron after the famous May 1943 raids on the Ruhr and Eder valleys, which were immortalised in The Dam Busters. Retired RAF navigator John Nichol delves into the records of the National Archives and finds a treasure trove of fascinating tales, including an account of the night-time bombing of the vital Dortmund-Ems canal, during which the men ended up flying through a ferocious barrage of flak. (R)

9.20 Big Brother: Timebomb. A round-up of Friday's events in the compound, including how the housemates coped with the pressure of the impending eviction, which took place that very evening.

10.20 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. When two sisters in their 30s are found dead in a crime-scene filled with twin imagery, it seems clear to the team that the Gig Harbor Killer is back. Ted Danson and Elisabeth Shue star in the last in the series.

11.20 NCIS. Gibbs and the team raid an illegal motor business run by US navy officers and find a marine's severed head in the boot of a car. Mark Harmon and Pauley Perrette star. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Big Brother: Timebomb. (R) **4.00** The Gadget Show. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 5 Seconds of Summer & Hozier @ R1BW **8.00** The Vaccines & Jess Glynne @ R1BW **9.00** Florence + The Machine & Rudimental @ R1BW **9.55** Muse Live @ R1BW **11.00** Family Guy **1.30** Murder in Successville **2.00** Nick Helm's Heavy Entertainment **2.30** Crims **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Wild Arabia **8.00** The Wonderful World of Blood – with Michael Mosley **9.00** 1864 **11.00** Top of the Pops: 1980 – Big Hits **12.00** Wild Boys: The Story of Duran Duran **12.50** Killer Whales: Beneath the Surface – Natural World **1.50** Wild Arabia **2.50** Fossil Wonderlands: Nature's Hidden Treasures **3.50** Close

ITV2

11.00 Britain's Got Talent **12.20** Britain's Got More Talent **1.20** The Hot Desk: Ella Eyre **1.30** Catchphrase **2.10** Mr Bean **3.20 Film:** King Kong (2005) **6.55 Film:** The Mummy (1999) **9.20** Britain's Got More Talent **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.05** Britain's Got Talent **12.20** Britain's Got More Talent **1.25** Hell's Kitchen **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.55 Film: The Railway Children (2000) **2.10** Wycliffe **3.20 Film:** Columbo: Lovely but Lethal (1973) **4.55** Lewis **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Inspector Wexford **12.10** Wire in the Blood **1.15** Wycliffe **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.00 Live FIA Formula E Championship. The Berlin ePrix qualifying session. **12.15** Counting Cars **12.40** Football's Greatest: Johan Cruyff **1.00** MotoGP Highlights **2.00** Live FIA Formula E Championship. The Berlin ePrix. **4.30** Football's Greatest: Eusebio **4.45 Film:** Shalako (1968) **7.00** Shed and Buried **8.00** Storage Wars: Texas **9.00 Film:** Apocalypse Now (1979) **12.05 Film:** Born to Raise Hell (2010) **2.10** I Want That Car **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.30 New Girl **1.00** The Goldbergs **2.00** How I Met Your Mother **3.00 Film:** Three Men and a Baby (1987) **5.00** Made in Chelsea **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** True Lies (1994) **11.55** Gogglebox **12.55** The Inbetweeners **2.00** Rude Tube: Ultimate Stunts **3.00** Almost Royal **3.25** 2 Broke Girls **3.50** How I Met Your Mother **4.30** Make It or Break It

Film4

11.00 The Last Mimzy (2007) **1.00** Sister Act (1992) **3.05** Carry On Dick (1974) **4.55** The Spy Next Door (2010) **6.45** School of Rock (2003) **9.00** The Tourist (2010) **11.00** Evil Dead (2013) **12.50** Silent Hill (2006) **3.25** Close

ADVERTISEMENT

Revolution *in denture provision*

Suction solution *is this the answer for you?*

A CHAMPION for denture wearers, Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng) has spent more than ten years campaigning to "break the taboo over false teeth and prove that high-quality dentures can indeed be nothing short of life-changing."

Evangelical about what new-generation denture prescriptions can achieve, he says the palette of solutions to deliver a more youthful, engaging smile has never been so great, with traditional, high-quality handmade-on-the-premises prosthetics; suction diaphragm dentures; and implant-retained over-dentures.

"People have come to us with ill-fitting teeth, sunken cheeks and pinched lips and we have been privileged to transform their looks, providing teeth that not only are aesthetically pleasing and hugely functional, but also successfully support facial structures just like their real teeth once did. It can take years off people."

Can dentures ever be glamorous? "Emphatically, yes," adds Steven.

Strident advances in technology, improved materials and revised clinical procedures are all helping "to drive the denture revolution forward and indeed introduce a real sense of natural-looking glamour to what can be accomplished," he says.

A CUTTING-EDGE development that helps to resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is being offered by the Denture Clinic.

Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353, who heads the teams at his North Street practice in Dudley, and other clinics across the region, says the invention has the potential to resolve all-too-common denture stability issues.

Prosthetics are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices which are built into the prescription. A clever diaphragm principle, triggered by bite pressure on patients' gums, creates a 'sucking' vacuum between the soft-tissue mouth lining and the prosthetic.

Steven, whose clinics attracts patients from as far as Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, says: "In recent times we have seen, what I can describe only as strident clinical steps forward, with implant-retained over-dentures, 'teeth-in-a-day' implant procedures and suction solution dentures, all coming into main-stream dentistry.

"We also have clever injection moulding technology which allows excellent fitting outcomes and our clinical solutions have never been so appealing.

"Implant dentistry as a resolve for stabilisation issues is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference. The Ultra Suction prosthetics system offers a possible alternative clinical solution.

The Ultra Suction system is available for both upper and lower dentures.

"The beauty of this affordable technology is that it can deliver for the right patient excellent denture retainer qualities without the invasive clinical procedures required for implant work."

Lower dentures can often be troublesome when stability is compromised by shrinking gums and bone erosion – all part of the natural ageing process. Ill-fitting dentures create painful friction problems on gums and not least, can be a regular source of embarrassment.

Reduction

Steven adds: "The device can be mounted on upper or lower teeth and because of its efficiency allows us to consider a reduction in the size of the acrylic 'plate' which can improve speech and taste.

"We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this is another 'tool 'in our commitment to always try to deliver outcomes greater than patient expectations."

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Denture Clinic

CHOICE

Stevie Wonder

Stevie Wonder: An All-Star Grammy Salute
Channel 5, 10pm
An all-star line-up pay tribute to Stevie Wonder, one of the most highly respected recording artists of all time. Beyonce, Lady Gaga, Ed Sheeran, Pharrell Williams, Tony Bennett and John Legend are just a few of the big names performing numbers from Stevie's songbook at LA's Nokia Theatre, before the man himself takes to the stage for a finale performance of some of his all-time classics, including Superstition and You Are the Sunshine of My Life. Hosted by LL Cool J, the evening also includes Annie Lennox, Ariana Grande, Ne-Yo, Jill Scott and Babyface.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Pentecost 2015. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Wanted Down Under. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.45** Shark. (R) **3.45** Points of View. **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2015. **5.05** Formula 1: Monaco Grand Prix – Highlights.

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. The team explores Warwickshire, where Matt Baker visits Charlecote Park, discovering the plants and wildlife that live on the banks of the River Avon. Anita Rani gets a taste of life as a pig farmer and Adam Henson becomes involved with an asparagus harvest. Helen Skelton visits Middleton Hall and reveals the story of naturalist John Ray and Tom Heap discovers a problem with using green waste as fertiliser. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The team returns to Barrington Court in Somerset, where Fiona Bruce examines the house's collection of distinctive wood paneling. Among the unusual finds brought in to be valued are a revolver that may have been owned by Buffalo Bill and a collection of rare German chocolate moulds.

9.00 Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell. Strange comes to London to take up an apprenticeship with Norrell and the two of them rescue a stricken ship. However, the elder magician fears his new friend will surpass him and guards his secrets closely – particularly the ancient magic of the infamous Raven King. The mysterious Gentleman exerts a sinister influence over Sir Walter Pole's household, taking butler Stephen Black to a shadowy kingdom where he discovers the price of Lady Pole's resurrection.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the final round of Premier League fixtures, which included Chelsea v Sunderland and Newcastle United v West Ham United.

12.00 The Football League Show. **1.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **6.30** The Big Allotment Challenge. (R) **7.30** RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2015. (R) **8.00** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites. (R) **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) **12.00** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **1.00 Film:** Camelot. (1967) Musical, starring Richard Harris. **3.50** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.30** Nature's Weirdest Events. (R)

6.00 Golf: PGA Highlights. Hazel Irvine presents highlights of the fourth and final round of the PGA Championship, the European Tour event that took place on the West Course at the Wentworth Club in Surrey. Denmark's Thomas Bjorn held a commanding five-stroke lead heading into the concluding round at last year's tournament, but a three-over-par 75 that coincided with Rory McIlroy's six-under 66 saw the Northern Irishman emerge as the champion. Commentary comes from Peter Alliss, Ken Brown and Andrew Cotter.

7.00 A Very British Airline. Examining how British Airways keeps its 28 flights a day to New York's JFK airport running smoothly. The cabin crew trainees find out if they have successfully completed the course. (R)

8.00 Demolition: The Wrecking Crew. A team demolishes an office block in the centre of Doncaster, a gas holder close to two railway lines has to be brought down safely, and a demolition expert searches for scrap.

9.00 Armada: 12 Days to Save England. New series. Three-part documentary about the sinking of the Spanish Armada. In the first episode, Dan Snow reveals the events that led to conflict between England and Spain.

10.00 1945: The Savage Peace. Documentary examining stories of brutal acts of violence carried out against German civilians in formerly occupied countries in the aftermath of the Second World War.

11.00 The Many Faces of Stanley Baxter. A profile of the Glaswegian entertainer, whose TV shows drew huge audiences in the 1970s and 80s. With contributions from Michael Grade, Barry Cryer, Bill Oddie and Gregor Fisher. (R)

12.00 Film: Valhalla Rising. (2009) **1.25** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.25** Holby City. (R) **3.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **10.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **11.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** The Unforgettable Sid James. (R) **1.10 Film:** Batteries Not Included. (1987) Sci-fi fantasy, starring Jessica Tandy. **3.15** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **4.30** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **5.15** Thunderbirds Are Go. **5.45** Ninja Warrior UK. (R)

6.45 Regional Programme; Weather.

7.00 ITV News; Weather.

7.15 Celebrity Squares. Warwick Davis hosts the quiz, with Frank Skinner, Katherine Kelly, Rylan Clark, Nina Wadia, Aisling Bea, Alice Levine and Dane Bowers joining regulars Tim Vine and Joe Wilkinson.

8.00 Sunday Night at the Palladium. Jason Manford introduces the variety show, featuring Will Young performing his new single Love Revolution, comedy from Joe Lycett and a duet between David Gray and LeAnn Rimes.

9.00 Home Fires. Miriam fears the consequences of David learning the truth, while Steph hides a secret that threatens the farm's future. Teresa's past comes back to haunt her in the shape of an unexpected visitor who could ruin her new life. Kate and Jack make plans for the future, and Laura's jealousy complicates her relationship with Richard. Erica struggles to save Bob and Pat's marriage, and Claire is caught in the crossfire between Frances and Joyce as plans get under way to build a new air raid shelter for the village.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Perspectives: Eddie Redmayne on War Art. Actor Eddie Redmayne explores how conflict has inspired creativity, visiting studios and battlefield locations to reveal the unique legacy left by war artists. Last in the series.

11.15 Premiership Rugby Union. Mark Durden-Smith is joined by David Flatman to present action and reaction from the semi-finals, as the top four sides competed to book their place in the Grand Final.

12.10 The Store. **2.30** Motorsport UK. **3.20** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** Ginetta GT5 Challenge. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30 Film:** Casper. (1995) Supernatural family comedy, starring Christina Ricci. **5.30** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. An interior designer tries to choose between Cornwall and the South of France.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Speed with Guy Martin. For his second adrenaline-fuelled challenge, the racer tries to set the world record for riding a motorcycle on water, with the help of a Cambridge professor and marine engineers. (R)

8.00 For the Love of Cars. Philip Glenister and Ant Anstead restore a Ford Transit in Manchester. They discover the vehicle has an unusual bonnet, which is a sign that it could be an exceptionally rare and valuable model of the classic van. Plus, a look at some of the most famous working vehicles manufactured in Britain, including black cabs, tractors and armoured cars.

9.00 Film: Trance. (2013) Premiere. An art dealer becomes involved in a plot to steal a valuable painting from his own auction house, but a blow to the head causes him to develop amnesia. Unable to remember the stolen item's whereabouts, he starts seeing a hypnotist to recall where he left it, but as she searches the depths of his mind, the barriers between fiction and reality begin to blur. Danny Boyle's non-linear crime thriller, starring James McAvoy and Rosario Dawson.

11.00 The Mega Brothel. A look inside a high-end, five-storey brothel in Stuttgart, Germany, exploring what life is like for the women, clients and management in a country with liberal prostitution laws. (R)

12.00 Sean Lock: Purple Van Man. (R) **1.00 Film:** Renaissance. (2006) **2.45** Born Naughty? (R) **3.45** Phil: Secret Agent Down Under. (R) **4.40** The Renovation Game. (R) **5.35** The Common Denominator. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **7.00** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.10** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.15** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.45** Milkshake! Show Songs. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.15** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.25** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.00** LazyTown. (R) **9.30** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Access. **10.40** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **11.35** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **1.25 Film:** The Deep End of the Ocean. (1999) Drama, starring Michelle Pfeiffer. **3.35 Film:** What a Girl Wants. (2003) Comedy, starring Amanda Bynes. **5.30 Film:** Chicken Little. (2005) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Zach Braff.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v New Zealand. Mark Nicholas presents highlights of the fourth day in the first Test of the two-match series, which takes place at Lord's.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud. Comedians Des Clarke and Katy Brand present a selection of the internet's most popular videos featuring dogs, including one with a pooch dressed in a tarantula costume. (R)

9.00 Big Brother: Timebomb. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, diary room visits and chit-chat in the aftermath of the recent eviction. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

10.00 Stevie Wonder: An All-Star Grammy Salute. An all-star line-up including Beyonce, Lady Gaga and Ed Sheeran salute Stevie Wonder with songs from his stellar songbook, before the man himself takes the stage.

11.50 Blinging Up Baby: You Won't Believe It! Following last year's documentary of the same name, this three-part series examines the growing trend for parents to kit out their young children in glamorous outfits. (R)

12.50 Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** World's Angriest: Caught on Camera. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Olly Murs & James Bay @ R1BW **8.00** Rita Ora & Imagine Dragons @ R1BW **9.00** Taylor Swift & George Ezra @ R1BW **9.55** Foo Fighters Live @ R1BW **11.00** Family Guy **11.45** Murder in Successville **12.15** American Dad! **12.35** Family Guy **1.20** Nick Helm's Heavy Entertainment **1.50** Murder in Successville **2.25** People Just Do Nothing **3.25** Nick Helm's Heavy Entertainment **3.55** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Peter Grimes on Aldeburgh Beach **9.20** Britain's Wild Places **9.30** Secret Knowledge: The Private Life of a Dolls' House **10.00** The Mystery of Murder: A Horizon Guide **11.00** Meat Loaf: In and Out of Hell **12.00** Heavy Metal Britannia **1.30** Eurovision at 60 **3.00** Abba at the BBC **4.00** Close

ITV2
11.15 The British Soap Awards 2015 **1.20 Film:** The Little Vampire (2000) **3.10 Film:** Jurassic Park (1993) **5.40** Britain's Got Talent **7.00** Britain's Got More Talent **8.00** You've Been Framed! & Famous **9.00 Film:** I Am Legend (2007) **11.05 Film:** The Matrix Revolutions (2003) **1.30** Mom **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.05 Wycliffe **12.10 Film:** Columbo: Lovely but Lethal (1973) **1.45** Lewis **3.50** Wycliffe **4.55** A Touch of Frost **6.55** Foyle's War **9.00** The Best of the Royal Variety **10.00** Vicious **12.05 Film:** Steptoe and Son Ride Again (1973) **1.55** Like Father, Like Son **3.10** Judge Judy **3.30** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4
9.00 Premiership Rugby Union **10.00 Film:** The Dead Pool (1988) **11.55 Film:** Mars Attacks! (1996) **2.05** Hell on Wheels **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.00 Made in Chelsea **1.00** Melissa & Joey **2.00** New Girl **3.00** How I Met Your Mother **4.00** The Goldbergs **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** 17 Again (2009) **10.00** Gogglebox **11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.10** Virtually Famous **1.00** Tattoos After Dark **2.00** Rules of Engagement **2.50** The Cleveland Show **3.15** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 The Man from Colorado (1948) **1.00** Marmaduke (2010) **2.45** Rat Race (2001) **5.00** Spirited Away (2002) **7.25** The Animal (2001) **9.00** Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (2011) **10.50** The Sixth Sense (1999) **1.00** Spirited Away (2001) **3.35** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Avengers Assemble, BBC1, 8pm
A mystical artefact is stolen from a top-secret military base by Thor's brother Loki, who plans to use it to bring about an alien invasion. Spymaster Nick Fury brings together a team of superheroes, including Iron Man, Thor, Captain America and the Hulk, to defend Earth from the impending attack. Action adventure uniting the Marvel comic-book characters, starring Robert Downey Jr. (2012)

TUESDAY
Biker Boyz, BBC1, 11.55pm
The son of a mechanic killed in a crash is determined to honour his father's memory by becoming a champion motorcycle racer. However, the leader of the underground motorcycle club where his father worked refuses to let him join. Outraged, the young biker assembles his own team and vows to prove once and for all who is the fastest rider. Action drama, starring Laurence Fishburne. (2003)

Avengers Assemble, Monday, BBC1, 8pm

WEDNESDAY
Jagged Edge, BBC1, 11.45pm
Defence attorney Teddy Barnes is haunted by an incident when her actions led to a case of wrongful imprisonment. Desperate not to make the same mistake again, she battles to clear publishing magnate Jack Forrester of murdering his wife. In the end she falls in love with him, but begins to wonder whether he really is innocent. Thriller, starring Glenn Close. (1985)

THURSDAY
Seven Psychopaths, Channel 4, 10pm
A writer struggling to complete the script for a movie about psychopathic killers turns to his criminal friends for advice. He ends up getting more than he bargained for when the small-time crooks kidnap a dog that belongs to a gangster, putting all their lives in danger. Comedy thriller, starring Colin Farrell. (2012)

FRIDAY
Miami Vice, ITV, 10.45pm
Two undercover narcotics detectives pose as smugglers to infiltrate a powerful drug cartel. Crime thriller based on the 1980s TV series, starring Colin Farrell and Jamie Foxx. (2006)

Woody faces up to the Spanish inquisition

Kayvan Novak is nothing if not versatile. His CV includes everything from the Oscar-winning thriller Syriana to the recent Thunderbirds re-boot, via an acclaimed performance in the controversial cult comedy Four Lions.

But it's arguably the series Fonejacker and its follow-up Facejacker that really showed off Novak's remarkable ability to create a range of different characters and voices.

So, really, who better to take the lead role in this new sitcom about a master of disguise?

SunTrap sees Novak as Woody, who has managed to turn his chameleon-like abilities into a career as the world's number one undercover reporter – until his corrupt editor exposes his identity, forcing him to go on the run.

Novak certainly thinks it's the perfect role, saying: "Woody is the part I have dreamed of playing since I was a kid. That and [Star Wars character] Boba Fett."

He's also been gifted a great co-star in the shape of Bradley Walsh, who has proved in the past that he can turn his hands to pretty much anything as well, whether it's starring in Law & Order: UK or hosting The Chase.

Walsh plays Woody's former mentor Brutus, who now runs a bar on a Spanish island and isn't initially all that enthusiastic about his sun-kissed new life being disrupted by his troublesome, if charming, protege.

However, Woody has no one else he can turn to, and Brutus soon realises he can make use of the reporter by putting him to work on a series of investigations.

Unlike his character, it certainly sounds like Walsh had few reservations about teaming up with Novak. He says: "My goodness, what a blast it is filming SunTrap. With a very funny script, brilliant cameos from the likes of Keith Allen and Paul Kaye as Señor Big and Frederico Mercury, what's not to like? I'm loving every second working with the brilliant Kayvan Novak, it's a hoot from dawn to dusk."

Novak returns the compliment, adding: "So here I am in the sun, solving crimes and pretending to be a pirate, a hypnotist and a lady croupier. I thought life couldn't get any better. Then I saw Bradley Walsh drive by on a jet ski wearing nothing but a dressing gown."

In fact, the only thing that might give the audience pause for thought is the fact that a sitcom with such an impressive cast, fun setting and promising premise hasn't driven straight into the primetime slot recently vacated by Peter Kay's Car Share, and has instead found itself parked at 10.45pm.

That's not the only mystery in this opening episode, as Melody (Emma Pierson), the wife of pension fraudster Donald Hammer (Alan Williams) asks Brutus to help her track down her husband's hidden millions.

Unfortunately, it seems the chief witness in the case is Don's parrot, Teflon, which has recently been snatched. Can Woody find the right disguise to track down a bird-napper? And where does guest star Jack Dee fit into the proceedings?

Bradley Walsh and Kayvan Novak star, SunTrap, Wednesday, BBC1, 10.45pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Springwatch 2015
BBC2, 8pm
RSBP Minsmere on the Suffolk coast is widely regarded as the one of the best nature reserves in the UK, if not Europe. So, it makes the ideal setting for the latest series of Springwatch, which is back for an impressive three-week run. It also means that presenters Chris Packham, Michaela Strachan and Martin Hughes-Games are unlikely to run out of things to talk about between now and June 11, as Minsmere's dunes, grasslands and shingle beaches become home to rare birds, including marsh harriers, avocets, and bitterns. The focus isn't just on our feathered friends, as in a Springwatch first, three families of badgers have been fitted with GPS trackers, while roving reporter Iolo Williams will be filing reports from the far north of the British Isles.

TUESDAY
Gary Lineker on the Road to FA Cup Glory
BBC1, 10.45pm
The FA Cup is part of our nation's history. With the competition returning to the BBC after a six-year gap, Gary Lineker sets off around the nation to investigate the world's oldest football tournament. Along the way he meets the men whose careers and lives were changed by the competition. Ian Wright, Roberto Martinez and Fabrice Muamba share their stories with Gary, along with the Cambridge United players ahead of their clash with Manchester United last January.

WEDNESDAY
Benefits Britain: Me & My 14 Kids
Channel 5, 9pm
The concluding edition of the two-part documentary about people with large families who rely on benefits introduces viewers to Tom and Stacey Shaw. They have 14 children ranging in age from 18 year to 18 months. The family lives in an eight-bedroom home and receive more than £70,000 a year from the state to support themselves. Tom gave up his job as a postman 10 years ago to become the full-time carer of one his older sons, who has a potentially life-threatening medical condition, and both he and Stacey make sure their domestic life is run with military precision to make sure nothing goes amiss. There's a look at Sara Crafter's predicament – she has three grown up children who, like their mum, are jobless.

Gary Lineker on the Road to FA Cup Glory, Tuesday, BBC1, 10.45pm

24 Hours in A&E
Channel 4, 9pm
New series. Return of the documentary following life inside the A&E department of St George's Hospital in south-west London. Ashley, 28, is brought in after a car pulled out into his motorbike and doctors are concerned he could have back, pelvis and internal injuries and send him for a CT scan, while 77-year-old ambulance driver Jim arrives after collapsing at the wheel of his vehicle and driving into a lamppost. Staff also treat 14-year-old Fabian, who fell 20ft from a tree and hasn't moved since and is suffering from back and neck pain.

THURSDAY
Inside Jaguar: Making a Million Pound Car
Channel 4, 9pm
Back in February 1963 Jaguar began work on its Lightweight E-type project, with a plan to build 18 Special GT E-type cars. However, only 12 of the aluminium-bodied vehicles were completed back in the 1960s, and now the British car manufacturer have finished the missing six Lightweights that were never made. Mark Evans follows the creation of these cars that have been hand-built in-house by Jaguar's finest craftsmen and specialist engineers, with each being constructed to the exact specifications of their original 1960s forebears. But before you get on the phone to your nearest Jaguar showroom, you should note these cars will come with a massive price tag – around the £1million mark – and not everyone is happy about the whole situation.

FRIDAY
Have I Got News for You
BBC1, 9pm
With post-General Election fall-out and fallings-out still dominating the Press, Ian Hislop and Paul Merton are sure to have plenty to sink their satirical teeth into again tonight. It's always nice to see tried-and-tested panellists returning to this long-running show, and one of this evening's participants, Andy Hamilton, is second only to Alexander Armstrong when it comes to HIGNFY guest appearances, with this being his 16th outing. Whether he's on Team Paul or Team Ian, Hamilton will be taking on a relative rookie in Essex-born writer, stand-up comedian and actress Sara Pascoe.

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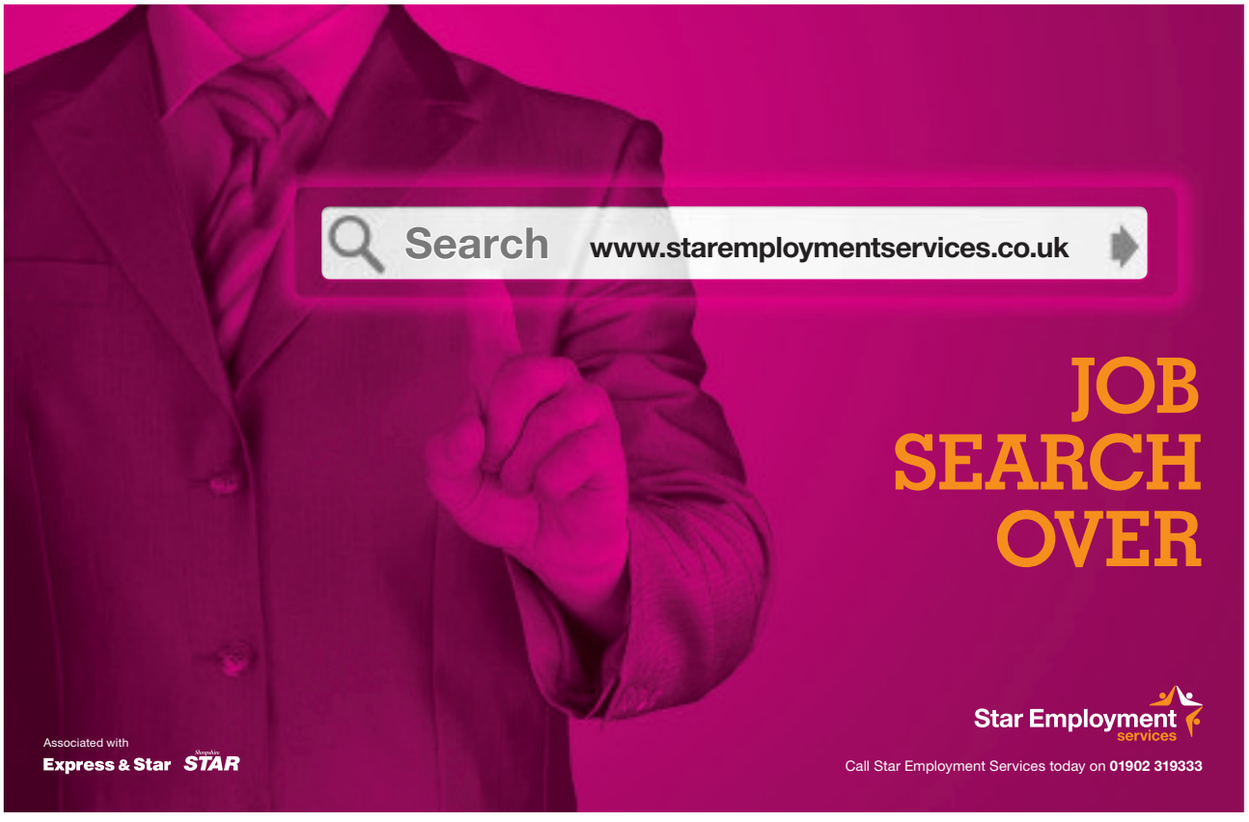
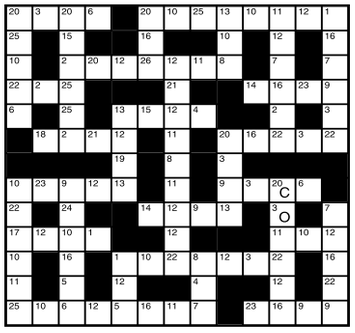
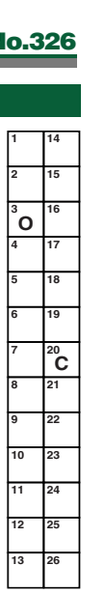


BRAIN GYM No.326

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



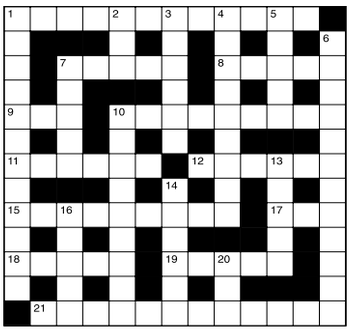


LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
M	B	N	D	I	T	U	O	A	C	W	K	V
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Z	X	G	H	L	P	Q	Y	J	R	S	E	F

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. They were sometimes held to be more illuminating (12)
7. It dies at the end of December (5)
8. It's straightforward and on the level (5)
9. A tower of strength (3)
10. Most foolish, however? (9)
11. Roadside place for those low in spirit? (6)
12. The comfort of the man taking over? (6)
15. The way to cure behaviour? (9)
17. A number of vital importance (3)
18. Heart-broken world (5)
19. An odd type of route (5)
21. He isn't a good forecaster (7,2,3)

Down

1. Assemble and call for a lady (4,8)
2. Strike up (3)
3. Master's current form (6)
4. In a hurry to make me paint it (9)
5. Colour uniformly used (5)
6. Intrusion which may spoil the reception (12)
7. Agree to be enthusiastic (5)
10. His plight might possibly warn sailors (9)
13. Silly Annie is upset (5)
14. Suit to change into? (6)
16. The fault of some terrorists (5)
20. As well as the first fifteen letters (3)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Succeed (4,3,5)
7. Frivolous (5)
8. Corn (5)
9. Tavern (3)
10. Malignity (9)
11. Earth (6)
12. Instructions (6)
15. Harshness (9)
17. Write (3)
18. Memorize (5)
19. In good time (5)
21. Spineless (12)

Down

1. Nubile (12)
2. Label (3)
3. Whole (6)
4. Rhythmically (9)
5. Exhaust (5)
6. Irrational (12)
7. Slowly (5)
10. Retribution (9)
13. Void (5)
14. Aim (6)
16. Sully (5)
20. Chafe (3)

Sudoku

	7						3	
		8	6	4	3			
1		3	9		5			8
	2				4		7	
6		5		2		9		4
	3						8	
7			4		6	8		1
		9	1	8	2			
	1						6	

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	7	5	1	3	4	8	6	2
8	6	2	5	7	9	4	1	3
4	1	3	8	2	6	7	9	5
6	3	4	7	1	2	9	5	8
2	9	1	6	8	5	3	4	7
7	5	8	9	4	3	6	2	1
3	8	6	2	9	1	5	7	4
1	4	9	3	5	7	2	8	6
5	2	7	4	6	8	1	3	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 4 Escheat; 8 Enamel; 9 Ideally; 10 Ingrid; 11 Misled; 12 Absinthe; 18 Notified; 20 Absent; 21 Bottom; 22 Fast set; 23 Lean on; 24 Reverse. Down: 1 Delilah; 2 Largess; 3 Design; 5 Sediment; 6 Hearse; 7 Asleep; 13 Tent-pegs; 14 Distant; 15 Adamant; 16 Abrade; 17 Nettle; 19 Ironed. QUICK - Across: 4 Against; 8 Equity; 9 Parched; 10 Simple; 11 Damage; 12 Straddle; 18 Farcical; 20 Mature; 21 Bemuse; 22 Confide; 23 Depend; 24 Restore. Down: 1 Persist; 2 Summary; 3 Stolid; 5 Grandeur; 6 Income; 7 Sledge; 13 Defender; 14 Accused; 15 Already; 16 Galore; 17 Buffet; 19 Clever.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. How many years does a sapphire wedding anniversary celebrate?
2. Which country's vehicle registration letters are RCH?
3. Which vegetable has the varieties Nevada and Canberra?
4. Which line is coloured grey on a London underground map?
5. Which shipping forecast area lies between Fastnet and Irish Sea?
6. In which Forest is As You Like It set?
7. On which river does Florence stand?
8. Which singer was born Robert Allan Zimmerman?
9. What was the name of the dog in the film The Wizard of Oz?
10. Phobos and Deimos are satellites of which planet?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Sagittarius; 2 An angleris name for a species of mayfly; 3 Morocco; 4 Golden Hind; 5 Noel Coward; 6 The Napoleonic War; 7 Franz Hals; 8 Germany; 9 Palermo; 10 Flann O'Brien.

Niner: LIFEGUARD

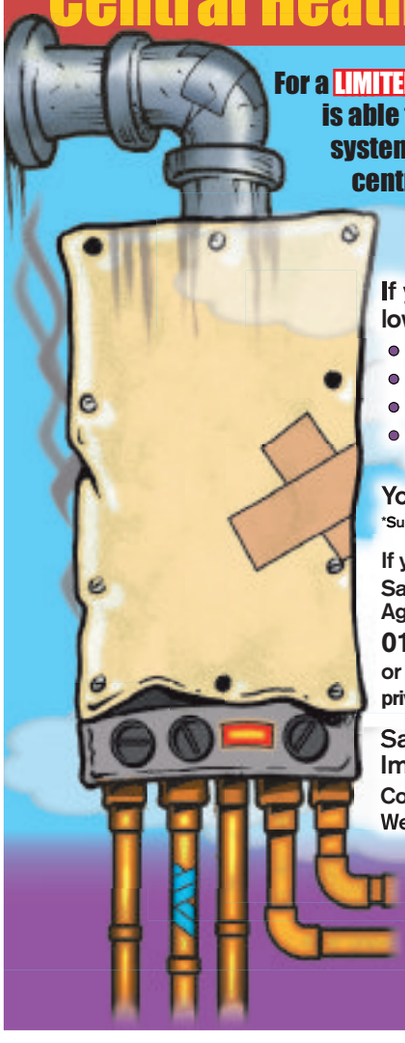
Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

3834 gives a flower,
19574 gives a second flower,
16254 gives a third flower.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Central Heating Assistance



For a LIMITED PERIOD ONLY Sandwell Council is able to help provide central heating systems to homeowners who have no central heating or an old inefficient "G" rated boiler or back boiler.

If you live in Sandwell and have a low household income and are:

- over 60 or
- disabled or have
- chronic health issues or have
- children up to the age of nineteen

You may be eligible for assistance.*

*Subject to terms and conditions

If you want to know more contact:
Sandwell Council Home Improvement Agency on:
0121 569 5232
or email:
privatesector_housing@sandwell.gov.uk

Sandwell Home Improvement Agency
Court House, West Bromwich.
West Midlands, B70 8LU

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

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Express & Star

Biddle and Webb start on property

FOLLOWING the successful launch this year of their new collectors sales on Saturday mornings and their bi-monthly Fine Wine auctions, Biddle and Webb are proud to announce the start of their new quarterly property sale.

David Biddle said: "It's an important move to help our probate customers. We are already the leading probate auctioneer in Birmingham and it makes perfect sense that solicitors can not only sell the contents of the property but also the property itself."

Biddle and Webb is a family business which was started in the 1950's by Ernie Biddle who was born in Birmingham. Two of his sons Mike and David are still very much involved.

Biddle and Webb has developed from running one sale every Wednesday afternoon to having a portfolio of sales which range from Fine Art, Fine Wine, to a specialist commercial sale, every Tuesday, which contains parcels which are lost in transit, with also retail returns, from some of the leading high street retailers.

The Biddles believe they can bring their advances in internet technology to the Property market. Biddle and Webb have developed their own unique internet bidding system that allows buyers to bid live, from anywhere in the world, giving sellers an opportunity to reach a much wider and diverse audience.

This has proven, in other areas, to dramatically increase prices. Also Biddle and Webb has produced systems which make it much easier for both buyers and sellers to view information about the properties, and more importantly, account information.

In the Midlands all the property auctioneers are primarily estate agents and Biddle and Webb believes this puts them in a unique position which means there can be no conflict of interests and it can do what it does best which is to drive sales and produce the best possible sale results. People can watch their live internet broadcast between 10.30 and 11.30am on Saturday June 6. Ask questions by twitter or email about each property.

The next sale dates are August 1 and October 17.

Deceptively spacious bungalow

THIS deceptively large extended detached bungalow in Bagnall Street, Tipton, lies in a popular area.

It is for sale through Paul Dubberley at £225,000. The home is pleasantly decorated throughout in neutral shades and with double glazing and gas central heating.

It has a reception hall, a good sized lounge with a feature fireplace and patio doors, a spacious dining room/bedroom three, a breakfast kitchen with plenty of white storage units, complementary working surfaces, splash-back tiling, wood-effect flooring and space for a table and chairs and appliances.

Upstairs there are two good sized bedrooms (one with plenty of fitted storage units), a family bathroom with an attractive modern white suite including a corner bath and an additional shower cubicle.

Outside is a driveway giving secure parking flanked by hard landscaping to the front and a lovely private rear garden with lawn and further parking space.

For further information contact the estate agents Paul Dubberley on 0121 5223733 or visit www.pauldubberley.co.uk

TO LET
bulleys.co.uk/bloomfield
2,236 – 4,483 sq ft (208 – 416 sq m)
BLOOMFIELD PARK, BLOOMFIELD ROAD, TIPTON, DY4 9AH
Units available separately or combined M5 (J2) Approximately 3.5 Miles 24 hour estate CCTV Estate palisade fencing
0121 544 2121

TO LET
bulleys.co.uk/hale
1,133 - 2,493 sq ft (105 – 232 sq m)
HALE TRADING ESTATE LOWER CHURCH LANE TIPTON, DY4 7PQ
Last 2 remaining units Junction 2 of M5 approximately 4 miles Black Country New Road approximately 1 mile
0121 544 2121

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TO LET
bulleys.co.uk/lyebc
From 603 sq ft (56 sq m)
LYE BUSINESS CENTRE LYE, DY9 8QH
Lye centre within 1 mile Imediate occupation M5 & M6 within 7 miles Units available separately or combined
0121 544 2121

TO LET
bulleys.co.uk/4&5moxley
3,596 - 7,232 sq ft (334 - 672 sq m)
UNITS 4 & 5 MOXLEY IND. CENTRE , WESTERN WAY, WEDNESBURY, WS10 7BG
Close proximity to the Black Country New Road (A41) Junction 10 M6 approximately 3.5 miles Twin units can be taken as a whole or split
0121 544 2121

FOR SALE
bulleys.co.uk/hainge
56,074 sq ft (5,209 sq m)
24/26 & 35/37 HAINGE RD OLDBURY B62 2NY
Modern office accommodation - 24/26 Secure Yard area 1,090 sq m - 35/37. Sub Station electricity supply, capacity 1,000 kva - 35/37.
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Wolverhampton
01902 713333

Telford
01952 292233

Oldbury
0121 544 2121

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15, HARBOURNE ROAD, OLDBURY

162, ABBEY ROAD, SMETHWICK

9, HARROWBY DRIVE, TIPTON

52, TURTON ROAD, TIPTON

84, MYROD ROAD, WEDNESBURY

47, CASTLE STREET, WEST BROMWICH

UNIT 2F, PEARSALL DRIVE, OLDBURY

Attractively presented end-terrace at £127, 500

THIS modern-style three-bedroomed end-terrace house in Whittington Close, West Bromwich is attractively presented throughout.

It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £127,500.

With double glazing and gas central heating it has a lounge with a bow window and open staircase off and a feature focal point fireplace and wood-effect laminate flooring, a breakfast kitchen with modern units, a conservatory, downstairs WC.

Meanwhile outside there is ample off-road parking and flanked by a stepped path to the front door, and a hard rear garden, landscaped for ease of maintenance.

For further information contact Skitts Estate Agents on 0121 5051818 or at www.skitts.net

Taylors

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New

BEARWOOD, Wigorn Road

Delightfully presented, much improved, 3 bed mid terrace situated within this popular location, convenient for Bearwood Town Centre and Lightwoods Park, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Entrance hall, dining room, attractive lounge, re-fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, shower room, and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers around £154,950

New

OLDBURY, Shrublands Avenue

Thoughtfully improved, 3 bedroomed semi detached property occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac position, having double glazing, gas radiator heating and comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful lounge, dining kitchen, attractive conservatory, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, drive providing off road parking, pleasant rear garden and good sized Garage/useful store at the rear. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE.

Offers in the Region Of £149,950

New

BEARWOOD, Milcote Road

Deceptively spacious, well proportioned, 2 bedroomed mid terraced property occupying a pleasant position within this popular neighbourhood, convenient for Bearwood Town Centre, having majority double glazing, gas radiator heating and comprising :- Dining room, attractive lounge, kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom, and good length rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC C. BEARWOOD OFFICE.

Offers in the Region Of £132,950

New

SMETHWICK, Francis Road

Well presented, spacious, 2 bedroomed semi detached property conveniently situated, having majority double glazing, and comprising :- Entrance vestibule, spacious lounge, breakfast kitchen, rear lobby (with downstairs wc off), 2 double bedrooms, bathroom, and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC F. BEARWOOD OFFICE

£120,000

OLDBURY, Valentine Road

Deceptively spacious, 3 bedroomed semi detached property conveniently situated, requiring internal inspection, having majority double glazing, gas radiator heating and comprising :- Porch, entrance hall, spacious lounge, rear vestibule, attractive kitchen, lobby area (with downstairs wc off), garden room, 3 bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom, off road parking, garage/useful store and pleasant rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE

New price WAS £134,950 NOW £129,950

OLDBURY, Eva Road

An attractively presented, thoughtfully improved, 3 bedroomed intermediate terraced property conveniently situated, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Entrance vestibule, delightful lounge, fitted dining kitchen (with oven/hob), 3 bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom and good sized rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE.

Offers around £119,950

SMETHWICK, Queens Road

Deceptively spacious 3 bedroomed semi detached, conveniently situated, requiring some modernisation but offering potential, having majority double glazing, gas radiator heating and comprising :- Porch, entrance hall, through lounge, kitchen, inner vestibule area (with downstairs shower/wet room and wc off), lean to, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, separate wc, and good sized rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

No upward chain Offers around £119,950

SMETHWICK, Valley Road

Deceptively spacious, 3 bedroomed end terraced property conveniently situated, having double glazing, gas radiator heating and comprising :- Entrance vestibule, lounge, fitted dining kitchen (with integral oven/hob and integrated fridge), rear vestibule area (having downstairs wc off), 3 bedrooms, bathroom, and rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

New price WAS £116,950 NOW £115,000

SMETHWICK, White Road

A deceptively spacious, well presented, 2 bedroomed intermediated terraced property most convenient for local shopping facilities, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Attractive lounge, dining/sitting room, kitchen, rear lobby (with downstairs wc off), 2 double bedrooms, spacious bathroom and pleasant rear gaarden. EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers around £109,950

SMETHWICK, Milton Court, Sandon Road

deceptively spacious 2 bedroomed flat, occupying a pleasant position within this retirement complex, conveniently situated for Bearwood Town Centre, approached via a communal entrance and comprising :- Entrance hall (with intercom receiver), spacious lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, communal garden and communal parking area. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC C. BEARWOOD OFFICE

No upward chain Offers around £69,950

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- Estate CCTV Security

For more properties available in the West Midlands and elsewhere visit:

www.lcpproperties.co.uk or call **01384 400123**

LONDON & CAMBRIDGE PROPERTIES

Elegant home with original features

A VERY elegantly presented and appointed traditional terrace home in Milcote Road, Bearwood truly has the 'wow factor'. In a most sought after location and retaining many period features, it is for sale through Robert Oulsnam at £189,950.

It has an entrance hall, two interconnecting reception rooms with a period style fire place to reception room one, a well appointed kitchen complete with an oven and hob kitchen, undertairs storage, a split level landing, two bedrooms, a traditionally designed bathroom with mains shower, nursery/study/dressing room and an outbuilding. For further information contact Robert Oulsnam on 0121 4299986 or visit www.oulsnam.net

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team

NEW
OLDBURY

LANGLEY ROAD
A corner semi detached property having been converted into two residential flats offering ideal investment opportunity. Communal areas, two flats located on ground and first floors both providing flats comprising reception hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom. Electric heating, double glazed windows and small communal yard to rear. EPC Rating E
Offers in the region of £120,000

OLDBURY

LEAHOUSE GARDENS
Detached family residence in need of general updating and decoration. Reception hall, cloakroom, kitchen, dining room, lounge, four bedrooms, ensuite shower, family bathroom, garage,parking, rear garden. EPC Rating E
Offers in the region of £214,950

ROWLEY REGIS

SIDAWAY CLOSE
An extended, improved and well presented modern detached house comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining kitchen, understairs store cupboard, master bedroom with dressing area and ensuite shower, two bedrooms and family bathroom. Central heating, double glazing, garage, utility, block paved driveway and established private rear garden. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £189,950

WEST BROMWICH

ARLINGTON ROAD
An improved and extended semi-detached house comprising, porch, entrance hall, understairs store cupboard, front sitting room, rear sitting room, extended dining kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, central heating, double glazing, established gardens. EPC Rating D.
Offers in the region of £174,950

OLDBURY

McKEAN ROAD
Semi-detached house situated within walking distance of Oldbury Town Centre comprising Porch, front sitting room, rear sitting room, rear lobby, , kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, central heating, part-double glazing,front and rear gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating F
Offers in the region of £124,950

OLDBURY

THE DINGLE
Semi-detached house being an ideal investment opportunity. INTERNAL INSPECTION RECOMMENDED. Porch, entrance hall, through lounge/dining room, kitchen, utility, three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage and private established rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £119,950

OLDBURY

OLDACRE ROAD
Terraced family home offering an ideal first time purchase, comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, separate toilet, double glazing, central heating, established gardens to front and rear. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating C
Offers in the region of £119,950

Properties urgently needed for sale or let.
Contact your local team agent for your FREE valuation

OLDBURY

FARM ROAD
A fully modernised and improved mid-terraced property. Side entrance into hall, two reception rooms, lobby, kitchen area, bathroom, staircase to first floor landing, three bedrooms, central heating, double glazing where specified, garden to rear. EPC Rating E
Offers in the region of £99,950

TIPTON

HOLCROFT STREET
Well presented spacious flush fronted terraced property. Double glazing and gas central heating to entrance hall, dining room, lounge, kitchen, downstairs toilet, two bedrooms, bathroom. Rear garden. EPC Rating D
Offers in excess of £76,000

TO LET
OLDBURY

TUDOR ROAD
End town house situated within catchment area of Moat Farm Junior & Infant School. Storm porch, reception hall, utility, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms, shower room and separate W.C., double glazing, central heating. EPC Rating C
£585 pcm

TO LET
ROWLEY REGIS

PORTWAY ROAD
Well presented and maintained first floor flat offering good sized accommodation. Entrance hall, staircase extending to first floor landing off which lead, lounge, L shaped kitchen, two bedrooms, shower room. Front and rear garden. Bin Store and parking with garage to rear. EPC Rating D
£450 pcm

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Wednesbury	Tipton	West Bromwich	Willenhall	Walsall	Bilston
0121 222 1301	0121 222 1304	0121 222 1307	01902 505971	01922 460781	01902 505974

Bilston Road Tipton

- 4 bedrooms ● loft room
- UPVc double-glazing ● Gas central heating
- Extended to ground & first floor
- , EPC E

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £149,950

Thompson House Tipton

- Purpose Built First Floor Flat
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Central Heating
- Security Entrance Doors
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC C

OFFERS OVER:
Viewing: £65,000

PUBLIC NOTICE

Dudley Road

Date of Notice 6.5.15 by order of the mortgagee in possession we advise that an offer of £60,000 has been received for flat 26 Victoria Mews, Dudley Road, Tipton, DY4 8DJ. Any persons wishing to make an increased offer should notify the agents Paul Dubberley and co, DY4 7HF - 0121 522 3733 of their best offer

Avern Close Tipton

- Modern Middle Terrace
- Gas Central Heating ● Upvc Double Glazing
- 2 Bedrooms
- Garage, EPC C

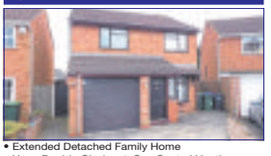
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £99,995

Sedgley Road Dudley

- Investment Opportunity - £6,600 per year
- For sale with Tenant Till October 2016
- 3 Bedrooms
- , EPC C

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £120,000

Nightingale Drive Tipton



- Extended Detached Family Home
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- 3 Bedrooms
- , EPC TBC

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £145,000

Great Meadow Tipton

- Attractive Modern Semi Detached
- 3 Bedrooms
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Garage, EPC C

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £157,500

Shropshire Way West Bromwich

NEW

- A recently built ground floor apartment
- Two good sized bedrooms
- Allocated parking space
- , Central heating and double glazing

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £90,000

Keir Hardie Walk Oldbury

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Ground Floor W/C
- , First Floor Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £150,000

Jowetts Lane West Bromwich

NEW

- Semi Detached
- Land To Side
- Refitted First Floor Shower Room
- , Driveway

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £100,000

Lissimore Drive Tipton

- Modern Ground Floor Luxury Apartment
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Viewing Recommended
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC C

offers over
Viewing: £80,000

PUBLIC NOTICE

Dawes Avenue

Property Address: 118 Dawes Avenue, West Bromwich, B70 7LS

We advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £89,950. Any persons wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts.

Agents Address: Paul Dubberley West Bromwich B70 8EN

Agents Telephone Number: 0121 525 2111

Hall Green Road West Bromwich

- Semi Detached
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Driveway, Utility/Ground Floor W/C

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £190,000

Julia Gardens West Bromwich

- Semi Detached Bungalow
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Re-Fitted Shower Room
- , Front and Rear Gardens

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £155,000

Weston Drive Tipton

- Modern Style Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms & Modern Bathroom
- Spacious Lounge
- , Kitchen & Breakfast Area

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £120,000

Mill Street Wednesbury

- Immaculate Modern Detached Residence
- Master Bedroom With En-Suite
- Two Further Bedrooms
- , Family Bathroom & Guest WC

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £149,950

Connaught Avenue Wednesbury

- An Extended 4 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Quiet Cul-de-Sac Location & No Upward Chain!
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- EPC Rating: D, Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £110,000

All Saints Road Wednesbury

- Double Fronted Detached Residence
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms & Kitchen
- EPC Rating: E, First Floor Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £130,000

Sycamore Road Wednesbury

- Extended Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms & First Floor Bathroom
- Lounge & Dining Room
- , Kitchen & Ground Floor Wet Room

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £130,000

Wood Street Wednesbury

- Traditional Mid Terrace Home
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- , Kitchen & Utility Area With WC

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: £90,000

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Oldbury

OPEN TO VIEW
SAT 23rd MAY
11am to 12noon

266 Pound Road
This three bedroom semi detached house with large rear garden has been significantly improved and re-planned on the ground floor to provide super family accommodation.
MUST BE VIEWED TO BE FULLY APPRECIATED Reception hall, storage cupboard under stairs, living room, family/day room, re-fitted kitchen/breakfast area, wc/utility, landing, three bedrooms, well appointed bathroom, gas boiler serving radiators, double glazing to windows as specified, good sized rear garden, fitted carpets, alarm. EPC=D
Offers in the region of £189,950

Halesowen

Manor Lane
* An impressive detached family house
* Superb outlook and extensive gardens
* Through lounge, dining area, family room/ sitting room * Quality fitted kitchen/breakfast room/utility room * Fitted cloakroom
* Conservatory * Four bedrooms with fitted furniture * Shower room * Bathroom EPC=tbc
Offers in the region of £550,000

Romsley

Romsley Hill Grange Farley Lane
* The ground floor apartment in a unique building (of just two apartments) * A secluded position with aspect onto the landscaped grounds and woodland * Two beds (Principal en -suite) * Spacious kitchen/breakfast room and utility area * Open plan lounge and inner dining area * Double garage EPC=D
Offers in the region of £285,000

Halesowen

Beecher Road
* Period detached house * Full of character, charm and unspoilt features * Impressive reception hall, fitted cloaks, recently re-fitted kitchen/breakfast room * Lounge, separate dining room, utility * 4 bedrooms, bathroom with both bath & shower * Pleasant gardens, detached garage EPC=F
£255,000

Quinton

Trevanie Avenue
* Link-detached house
* Extended living room and extended re-fitted kitchen
* Three bedrooms
* Ground floor and first floor shower rooms
* Low maintenance rear garden
EPC=E
Fixed Price £220,000

Halesowen

Blakedown Road
* Semi Detached
* Three Good Sized Bedrooms
* Re-fitted Kitchen and Re-fitted Bathroom with Shower Cubicle
* Garage
* Lovely Rear Garden
EPC=tbc
£189,950

Halesowen

New John Street
* Semi-detached
* Re-fitted kitchen
* Three bedrooms & bathroom
EPC=tbc
£129,500

Halesowen

Haswell Road
* Mucklow semi-detached house on prominent corner position * Extended and re-planned to provide three reception rooms * Fitted cloakroom/shower room and garage * Lounge, dining room and family room * Fitted kitchen
* Large laundry/utility * Two bedrooms with furniture, spacious third bedroom EPC=tbc
Offers in the region of £235,000

Quinton

Glyn Road
* Semi-detached house
* Three bedrooms
* Through living room
* Double garage to rear
* Good sized rear garden
EPC=tbc
Offers in the region of £154,950

Halesowen

Howley Grange Road
* Semi-detached
* In need of general modernisation
* Three bedrooms
* Through living room
* Small garage
EPC=tbc
Offers in the region of £179,950

Halesowen

Newlands Drive
* Extended semi detached house
* Three bedrooms
* Kitchen/dining room
* Through living room
* Lovely rear garden
* Small side garage
EPC=E
Offers in the region of £185,000

Halesowen

Narrow Lane
* Traditional style semi-detached house
* Three bedrooms and shower room
* Lounge, dining room and fitted kitchen
* Utility room, side garade, good sized gardens
* Gas boiler heating radiators, double glazed windows
* A must view property EPC=D
Offers in the region of £239,950

Halesowen

The Rosegardens
* Spacious house planned on three floors
* Fitted kitchen/breakfast room/fitted cloakroom
* Lounge leading to conservatory/dining room
* Principal bedroom with en-suite
* Two further bedrooms * House bathroom
* Enclosed gardens, carport and parking space
EPC=C
Offers in the region of £185,000

Halesowen

Links View
* Detached house
* Fitted cloakroom and utility
* Double garage
* Four bedrooms
* En-suite shower room
* House bathroom
EPC=C
Offers in the region of £309,950

Halesowen

Welbeck Close
* Detached house
* Re-fitted kitchen/breakfast room
* Study and utility
* Two reception rooms
* Four bedrooms one with en-suite
* House bathroom
* Double garage EPC=D
Offers in the region of £389,950

Halesowen

Carters Lane
* Semi-detached House
* Downstairs wc
* Four good sized bedrooms
* Bathroom and shower room
EPC=D
Offers in the region of £275,000

Halesowen

Hayley Park Road
* Detached Hous
* Two Reception Rooms
* Breakfast Room * Kitchen
* Conservatory
* Three Bedrooms
* Shower Room
* Garage EPC=E
Offers in the region of £309,950

Halesowen

Stourbridge Road
* Detached bungalow
* Good sized garage
* Three bedrooms (master with en-suite)
* Breakfast kitchen
* Conservatory
EPC=D
Offers in the region of £279,950

Stourbridge

Norton Road
* Attractive semi detached house situated opposite Mary Stevens Park * Three bedrooms and well appointed bathroom * Lounge, fitted kitchen/breakfast room, fitted cloakroom
* Extended living room forming dining room and sitting area * Extensive landscaped garden
* Garage and driveway parking EPC=D
£295,000

Rowley Regis

Darby Street
* Semi-detached bungalow
* Close to Blackheath town centre
* Reception hall, lounge, kitchen
* Bedroom, bedroom 2/dining room, bathroom
* Pleasant gardens, off road parking, gas boiler radiators
EPC=D
Offers in the region of £130,000

Quinton

Max Road
* Semi-detached house
* Living room and dining room
* Downstairs wc
* Re-fitted kitchen
* Three bedrooms
* Re-fitted bathroom
EPC=F
Offers in the region of £169,950

Halesowen

Astley Avenue
* Semi-detached house
* Living room and dining room
* Utility and downstairs wc
* Three bedrooms
EPC=D
Offers in the region of £209,950

Oldbury

Swan Crescent
* Semi-detached house
* Kitchen/dining room
* Three bedrooms
* Off road parking
EPC=D
Offers in the region of £135,950

Selly Oak

Warwards Lane
* Much improved semi-detached house
* Three bedrooms
* Re-fitted kitchen & bathroom with shower cubicle
* Lovely rear garden
* No upward chain
EPC=D
Offers in the region of £179,950

Oldbury

Moat Road
* Mid terraced house
* Two reception rooms
* Two bedrooms and loft conversion
* First floor bathroom
EPC=D
Offers in the region of £104,950

Halesowen

Chantry Drive
* Detached bungalow in sought after cul-de-sac location
* Dining room and living room
* Bedroom one with en-suite shower room
* Two further bedrooms
* Bathroom
* Garage EPC=D
Offers in the region of £325,000

Rowley Regis

Oldbury Road
* Semi detached house
* 3 Bedrooms
* 2 Reception rooms
* In need of general modernisation and improvement
EPC=D
Offers in the region of £99,950

Quinton

Four Acres
* Three storey town house
* Living room and good sized kitchen
* Three bedrooms
* Garage
EPC=D
Offers in the region of £109,950

Oldbury

Mercer House 780A Hagley Road West
* Well presented * First Floor Single offices
* Air conditioning/heater * Communal Kitchen and toilets * Set service charge
Suite 1 235 sq.ft. EPC=G
Annual rent of £1,900
Suite 3 411 sq.ft. EPC=E
Annual rent of £3,300

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Goodchilds FOR SALE

Goodchilds
Estate Agents & Lettings

Doulton Road,Rowley Regis
- Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Double Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Downstairs W.C.
- Living Room
- Dining Room
- Conservatory

OIRO £219,950

Brookfield Way,Tipton
- DETACHED PROPERTY
- AMPLY OFF ROAD PARKING
- THREE RECEPTION ROOMS
- FOUR BEDROOMS
- REAR GARDEN
- OFFICE AREA

OIRO £187,500

Hollies Drive,Wednesbury
- Three Story
- Traditional Semi-detached house
- Entrance Hallway
- Three Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Five Bedrooms

Offers in Excess of £185,000

Rough Hay Road,Wednesbury
- EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
- THREE STORYS
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- KITCHEN/BREAKFAST BAR
- CONSERVATORY
- DOWNSTAIRS W.C

£179,950

Aster Way,Walsall
- Three Bedroom
- Detached House
- Well Maintained
- Off Road Parking
- En-suite Bathroom
- Garage

OIRO £174,995

Pitchwood Close,Wednesbury
- Terraced Property
- NO UPWARD CHAIN!
- Three Story
- Three Bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Kitchen/Diner

OIRO £140,000

Hall Street East,Wednesbury
- MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOMS
- TWO BATHROOMS
- KITCHEN
- LOUNGE
- LOUNGE/DINER

£130,000

Vicarage Road,West Bromwich
- MID TERRACE
- ENTRANCE PORCH
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- LOUNGE/DINER
- FITTED KITCHEN
- THREE BEDROOMS

OIRO £127,000

Old Park Road,Wednesbury
- Terraced
- Three Bedrooms
- Open Plan Lounge Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Family Bathroom

Offers in Excess of £124,950

Tame Street,West Bromwich
- Mid Terrace House
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Downstairs WC
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Private Parking

Offers in excess of £120,000

Wills Avenue,West Bromwich
- END TERRACED PROPERTY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- ONE RECEPTION ROOM
- GARAGE
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- DOWNSTAIRS W.C.

£120,000

Sheldon Avenue,Wednesbury
- Three Bedrooms
- End Terrace
- Fully Refurbished
- Low Maintenance Garden
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge

OIRO £119,950

Salter Road,Tipton
- MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOM
- KITCHEN/DINER
- MODERN FITTED BATHROOM
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- REAR GARDEN

Offers in Excess of £105,000

Toll End Road,Tipton
- Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Downstairs Bathroom

OIRO £99,950

Garrington Street,Wednesbury
- Terraced house
- Darlaston area
- Entrance hallway
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Fitted kitchen

£95,000

Thunderbolt Way,Tipton
- Second Floor
- Entrance Hallway
- Two Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen

OIRO £94,950

Queen Street,Wednesbury
- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden

Offers in Excess of £90,000

Moxley Road,Wednesbury
- MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE
- DINER
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN

£89,950

King Edward Street,Wednesbury
- Two double bedrooms
- Terraced house
- Two reception rooms
- Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Rear Garden

OIRO £89,950

Damson Wharf,Tipton
- Three Bedroom Three Storey
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom&Downstairs WC
- Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- Two Sold, One Left
- Will Bring £560PCM

Offers in Excess of £88,000

Holyhead Road,Wednesbury
- UPPER FLOOR FLAT
- TWO BEDROOMS
- ENSUITE
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN

£87,950

Mark Road,Wednesbury
- TERRACED PROPERTY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- UPSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
- OFF ROAD PARKING

Offers in Excess of £87,000

Holyhead Road,Wednesbury
- UPPER FLOOR FLAT
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- TWO BEDROOMS
- EN-SUITE TO MASTER
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- LOUNGE/DINER

OIRO £85,000

Booth Street,Wednesbury
- TERRACED PROPERTY
- ONE RECEPTION ROOM
- TWO BEDROOMS
- FULLY FITTED KITCHEN
- REAR GARDEN
- SECURE REAR PARKING

Offers in Excess of £84,000

Westbury Road,Wednesbury
- Semi-detached
- Entrance hallway
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Downstairs W.C
- Family bathroom

Offers in Excess of £79,995

Whitehall Road,West Bromwich
- Well Presented Flat
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ample Storage
- Communal Gardens
- Ideal Investment
- Ground Floor

£74,995

Rugeley Close,Tipton
- FIRST FLOOR
- ONE BEDROOM
- ENTRANCE HALL
- LOUNGE
- FITTED KITCHEN
- FITTED BATHROOM

OIRO £59,950

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Goodchilds
Estate Agents & Lettings

Knowles Street, Wednesbury
- Three Bedrooms Detached
- Large Rear Garden
- Garage Conversion
- Downstairs WC
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £650

Kilburn Road, Birmingham
- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen with Appliances
- Off Road Parking
- Large Rear Garden
- No Pets
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £600

Bull Lane, West Bromwich
- Four Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Down Stairs W.C.
- Off Road parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £600

Dilliars Walk, West Bromwich
- Four Bedroom Terraced House
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking To The Rear
- Conservatory
- DHSS CONSIDERED

Monthly Rental Of £575

Westminster Road, Birmingham
- TWO BEDROOMS
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- PRIVATE REAR GARDEN
- MODERN THROUGHOUT
- FULLY FITTED MODERN KITCHEN
- UPSTAIRS BATHROOM

Monthly Rental Of £575

Coleraine Road, Birmingham
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Conservatory
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £575

Surrey Road, Birmingham
- Three Bedrooms Terraced House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Down Stairs Bathroom
- DHSS CONSIDERED

Monthly Rental Of £575

Oxford Way, Tipton
- Three Bedrooms Three storey Semi Detached House
- Double Glazing
- First and second Floor Bathrooms
- Garage
- Down Stairs office

Monthly Rental Of £650

Asquith Drive, Oldbury
- Two Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Patio Doors To Garden
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £575

THREE MORE REASONS TO USE GOODCHILDS

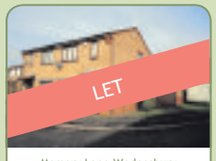
Judges Comments: The directors' knowledge is exemplary and this is filtered down to the rest of the team. Customers using Goodchilds can feel assured that they're in good hands.

Wiley Road South, Wednesbury
- Two Bedroom Apartment
- New Build First Floor
- Communal Entrance/Stairs
- Hallway
- Lounge/Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower Over

Monthly Rental Of £495

Carden Close, West Bromwich
- Two Bedroom Mid Terraced
- Large Rear Garden
- Front And Rear Access
- Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £475

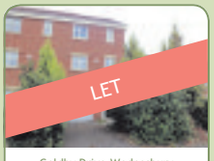


Memory Lane, Wednesbury
- Three Bedrooms Semi Detached
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Located in the Victoria Mews Estate
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £550

Alder Road, Wednesbury
- FOUR Bedrooms
- Semi-Detached House
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- Extensive Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £550



Goldby Drive, Wednesbury
- Three Bedrooms
- Guest W/C
- Master with En-Suite
- Off Road Parking
- Garage
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £550

Tame Crossing, Wednesbury
- Modern Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing and Electric Heating

Monthly Rental Of £475

Bromford Lane, West Bromwich
- Studio Apartment
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- All Bills included (Except Council Tax)
- DHSS ACCEPTED

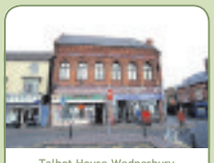
Monthly Rental Of £400

Dunkirk Avenue, West Bromwich
- Studio Apartment
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- All Bills included (Except Council Tax)
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £375

Springhead, West Midlands
- One Bedroom Split level Flat
- Off Road Parking
- Close to amenities
- Fitted Kitchen
- Perfect first Home
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £350



Talbot House, Wednesbury
- First Floor Apartment
- Central Location
- Close to Bus Station
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £325

Handley Street, West Midlands
- Two Bedroom Mid Terrace House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Kitchen/Dinner
- Large Garden
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £475

Bedford Street, Tipton
- Two Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Allocated Parking
- Fully Fitted kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £475

Wesley Grove, Wednesbury
- Three bedroom Semi detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central heating
- Front and Rear gardens
- Recently Refurbished
- SORRY NO DHSS

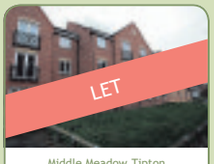
Monthly Rental Of £450

Myvod Road, Wednesbury
- One Bedrooms Ground Floor Apartment
- Electric Heating
- Double Glazing
- Off Road Parking
- Newly Refurbished
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

Lowe Avenue, Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Close to St Thomas More School
- DHSS CONSIDERD

Monthly Rental Of £450



Middle Meadow, Tipton
- Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Allocated Parking
- NEW CARPETS FITTED THROUGH OUT
- Gas central Heating
- Communal Grounds
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

Queen Street, Wednesbury
- One Bedroom First Floor Coach House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Garage
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £440

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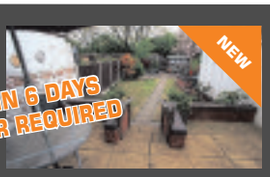
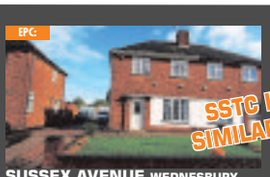
EPC: D

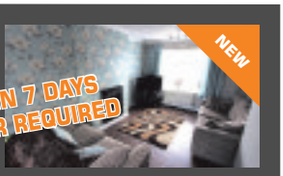


COLLINS ROAD WEDNESBURY
- EXTENDED THREE BEDROOM SEMI
- EXTENDED LOUNGE/DINING ROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN
- DOUBLE GLAZING (WHERE SPECIFIED)
- CENTRAL HEATING (WHERE SPECIFIED)
- GARAGE & DRIVEWAY
- REAR GARDEN

£129,995

EPC:





SUSSEX AVENUE WEDNESBURY
- TWO BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- THROUGH LOUNGE/DINING ROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- GARAGE & SHARED DRIVEWAY
- FRONT & REAR GARDENS

£119,995

EPC: TBA

HILL TOP WEST BROMWICH
- VICTORIAN DETACHED HOUSE
- THREE BEDROOMS
- THREE RECEPTION ROOMS
- CENTRAL HEATING
- SUBSTANTIAL GROUNDS
- WORKSHOP/GARAGE

£199,995

EPC:

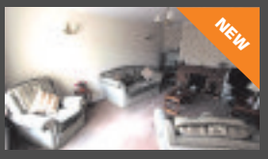
DORSETT ROAD DARLASTON
- EXTENDED FOUR BED SEMI DETACHED
- THROUGH LOUNGE DINING ROOM
- UTILITY ROOM
- DOWNSTAIRS WC
- EN-SUITE TO MASTER
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- GARAGE & DRIVEWAY

£159,995

SWALLOW CLOSE WEDNESBURY
- A MODERN THREE BED DETACHED
- LOUNGE & DINING ROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN & DOWNSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
- UPSTAIRS BATHROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- GARAGE & DRIVEWAY
- REAR GARDEN

£159,995

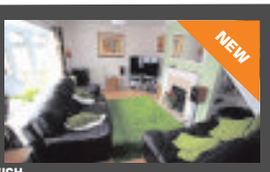
EPC:



BOSWELL CLOSE WEDNESBURY
- TWO BED SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW
- LOUNGE & FITTED KITCHEN
- SHOWER ROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- GARAGE, CARPORT AND DRIVEWAY
- FRONT & REAR GARDENS

£154,995

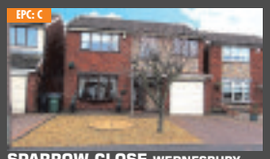
EPC: TBA



WHITTINGTON CLOSE WEST BROMWICH
- A THREE BED END TERRACE
- LOUNGE
- BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- CONSERVATORY
- DOWNSTAIRS WC
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING

£127,500

EPC: C



SPARROW CLOSE WEDNESBURY
- FOUR BEDROOM EXTENDED DETACHED HOUSE
- LOUNGE
- EXTENDED DINING ROOM
- DOWNSTAIRS WC
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- CENTRAL HEATING
- DRIVEWAY & GARAGE
- FRONT AND REAR GARDENS

£199,995

EPC: D

LILAC GROVE WEDNESBURY
- THREE BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE
- LOUNGE/DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN
- UTILITY ROOM
- CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARAGE
- REAR GARDEN

£177,500

EPC: TBA

DENBIGH DRIVE WEST BROMWICH
- THREE BED SEMI DETACHED
- LOUNGE/DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS WC
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- FRONT, SIDE & REAR GARDENS

£139,995

EPC: D

DALE STREET WEDNESBURY
- LARGER THAN AVERAGE SEMI DETACHED
- THREE EXCELLENT BEDROOMS
- SPACIOUS LOUNGE & DINING KITCHEN
- GENEROUS GARDENS
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- QUIET CUL DE SAC
- IMMACULATE INSIDE

£129,995

EPC: D

STONEHOUSE CRESCENT WEDNESBURY
- THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN
- MAJORITY DOUBLE GLAZING
- CENTRAL HEATING
- GARAGE & DRIVEWAY
- FRONT & REAR GARDENS

£127,000

EPC: TBA

WILLOW AVENUE WEDNESBURY
- THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- THROUGH LOUNGE/DINING ROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GAS FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- FRONT & REAR GARDEN

£114,995

EPC: D

HOLFORD AVENUE WALSALL
- TWO BED SEMI DETACHED
- LOUNGE & KITCHEN
- DOUBLE GLAZING & CENTRAL HEATING
- OFF ROAD PARKING ● GARAGE

£127,500

EPC: D

LEA AVENUE WEDNESBURY
- TWO BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW
- SET BACK OFF MAIN ROAD
- DOUBLE GLAZED & CENTRAL HEATING
- SHOWER ROOM ● GARAGE

£124,995

EPC: D

WILEY AVENUE WEDNESBURY
- THREE BEDROOM EXTENDED SEMI
- LOUNGE & DINING ROOM
- EXTENDED KITCHEN
- DOUBLE GLAZING & GAS CENTRAL HEATING

£123,995

EPC: D

BRUNSWICK PARK ROAD WEDNESBURY
- IMMACULATE TWO BED MID TERRACE
- UTILITY & DOWNSTAIRS WC
- DOUBLE GLAZED & CENTRALLY HEATED
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN

£99,995

EPC: D

ST PAULS CRESCENT WEST BROMWICH
- THREE BEDROOM MID TERRACE
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- CENTRAL HEATING & DOUBLE GLAZING
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

£84,995

EPC: D

MEETING STREET WEDNESBURY
- THIRD FLOOR TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT
- LOUNGE ● KITCHEN
- BEDROOM WITH EN SUITE
- ALLOCATED PARKING

OFFERS £84,995

EPC: D

BROOKSIDE WEDNESBURY
- GROUND FLOOR EX SHOW APARTMENT
- TWO BEDROOMS
- DOUBLE & SECONDARY GLAZING
- ELECTRIC HEATING ● ALLOCATED PARKING

£84,995

EPC: D

WODEN ROAD SOUTH WEDNESBURY
- FIRST FLOOR APARTMENT
- TWO BEDROOMS
- COMMUNAL GARDENS
- PRIVATE PARKING

£79,995

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WE VALUE YOUR HOME

Cul-de-sac detached home has been much improved

A SPACIOUS and delightfully presented and considerably improved three-bedroomed detached house in Suffolk Close, Oldbury lies in a pleasant cul-d-sac location.

It is for sale through Taylors Estate Agents at £194,950.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has an entrance hall (with downstairs WC off), a delightful spacious lounge, separate dining room, attractive fitted kitchen, a conservatory, three bedrooms (all with fitted wardrobes), re-fitted shower room. Contact Taylors on 0121 4344345 or visit website www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

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CHURCH VALE, B71 4DD

- A Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Planning For Extension
- Freehold, No Upward Chain
- EPC TBC, Corner Plot

£229,950

BAGNALL STREET, B70 6PN

- A Detached Property,Three bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Central Heating
- Double Garage, Driveway,

£249,950

SQUIRES WALK, WS10 9DB

- A Semi Detached Property
- Sought After Location
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Freehold, Garage & Driveway
- EPC Rating D

£249,950

HEATH LANE, B71 2BW

- A Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Extended
- Through Lounge
- EPC RATING E, Freehold

£203,950

WYNDMILL CRESCENT, B71 3RB

- A Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazed
- Central Heating, Conservatory
- EPC TBC, Freehold

£184,950

REMEMBRANCE ROAD, WS10 0TE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Conservatory
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

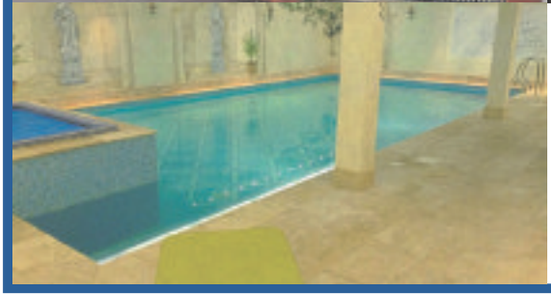
£139,950

HILLARY AVENUE, WS10 0HE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Front And Rear Gardens
- Lounge, Off Road Parking
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£124,950

STOUR STREET, B70 9AX



PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

- **A truly outstanding detached family home**
- **Award winning leisure complex**
- **Indoor heated swimming pool and gym**
- **Four bedrooms with two en suites**
- **Living Room, Dining Area, Office**
- **Kitchen, Laundry, Entertainment Room**
- **Gated frontage, ample parking and garage**
- **Stamp duty and legal fees paid by vendor**

£469,950

WALSALL ROAD, B71 3JD

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- External Double Glazing
- Central Heating

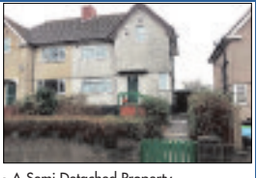
£109,950

MORRISON ROAD, DY4 7PX

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms, No Upward Chain
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating, Freehold
- EPC Rating D

£109,950

HYDES ROAD, WS10 0DF



- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Garage, Off Road Parking To Rear
- EPC RATING E, Freehold

£119,950

WESTMORE WAY, WS10 0TR

- A Link Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Double Glazed & Central Heating
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£149,950

CRANKHALL LANE, WS10 0DY

- An End Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING E

£99,950

CANTERBURY ROAD, B71 2LB

- A Semi Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Electric Heating
- Double Glazing
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£95,000

COLES LANE, B71 2QJ

- An Extended Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms, EPC Rating D
- Central Heating, Driveway
- Freehold, No Upward Chain

£139,950

Goldfield Court, Dartmouth Street,

- A Second Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Two Bedrooms
- Over 50's Residential Living
- Leasehold, EPC Rating B

£22,950 25% Shared Ownership

REFORM STREET, B70 7PE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Majority Double Glazed
- EPC TBC Freehold

£155,950

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Traditional values, modern techniques

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NEW

191 SELSEY ROAD, EDGBASTON

- End terraced property
- Easy access to City Centre
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- 2 double bedrooms
- Occ. bed 3/loft conversion
- Spacious bathroom
- Lounge & dining room
- Landscaped rear garden
- Internal inspection essential
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £124,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

NEW

14 FLORENCE ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Two double bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Garage to the rear
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £99,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

NEW

4 HUNTLANDS ROAD, HALESOWEN

- Semi-detached property
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms & Bathroom
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Through lounge/dining room
- Kitchen/breakfast room
- Side garage

OFFERS BASED ON £195,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

NEW

20 JACMAR CRESCENT, SMETHWICK

Extended semi-detached
- Gas centrally heated
- Virtually double glazed t/out
- 3 bedrooms
- First floor shower room
- Through lounge/dining room

Study
- Conservatory/open plan kitchen
- Downstairs shower room
- Off-road parking 3/4 cars
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £184,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

REDUCED

279 GALTON ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Recently refurbished freehold mid-terraced property
- Close to Lightwoods Park & Warley Woods
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Fully tiled bathroom with electric shower
- Three bedrooms and refitted bathroom with shower
- Two reception rooms and morning room
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £169,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

REDUCED

32 THIMBLEMILL ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Original fittings to include fireplaces, door & windows
- Two double bedrooms and bathroom
- Lounge, dining room and kitchen
- Pleasant gardens
- Sympathetically improved
- Gas centrally heated
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £117,500

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

70 GLADYS ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Freehold mid-terraced property
- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Two double bedrooms
- Two reception rooms, refitted kitchen and refitted fully tiled bathroom
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Ideal FTBs
- INTERNAL INSPECTION A MUST
- ALL SERIOUS OFFERS CONSIDERED
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £119,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

4 LARA GROVE, TIPTON

- Modern town house
- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazed
- 2 double bedrooms
- First floor bathroom
- Spacious lounge
- Off-street parking
- Ideal FTBs or Investors
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £110,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

PUBLIC AUCTION

AT

THIMBLEMILL RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

THIMBLEMILL ROAD,

SMETHWICK. B67 6NR

ON

MONDAY 1st JUNE 2015

AT 6.30PM

		Anticipated Price Range
Lot 1:	26 WILMINGTON ROAD, QUINTON B32 1DX Traditional freehold 3 bedroomed semi-detached in need of refurbishment	£ 125 - 135,000
Lot 2:	26 WESTON ROAD, BEARWOOD B67 5HH Freehold 2 bedroomed mid-terraced, in need of modernisation	£ circa. 90,000
Lot 3:	85 SALOP ROAD, OLDBURY B68 9AE 3 bedroomed end town house being gas centrally heated and double glazed	£ 85 - 90,000
Lot 4:	24 ARDEN GROVE, OLDBURY B69 4SX Well presented mid-terraced property, centrally heated & double glazed	£ 75 - 80,000
Lot 5:	64 HAMILTON ROAD, BEARWOOD B67 5QF Freehold semi-detached with 3 bedrooms, needing cosmetic improvement	£ 85 - 90,000
Lot 6:	1 EMBASSY DRIVE, OLDBURY B69 2ER Freehold 3 bedroomed end town house requiring improvement	£ 70 - 80,000
Lot 7:	36 CANALSIDE, WINSON GREEN B18 4SN Beautifully refurbished freehold 3bedroomed semi in waterside setting	£ 80 - 85,000
Lot 8:	36 PARKFIELD ROAD, OLDBURY B68 8PS Freehold 3 bedroomed semi-detached in need of general improvement	£ 90 - 100,000
Lot 9:	58 CORNWALL AVENUE, OLDBURY B68 0SW Freehold 3 bedroomed town house needing improvement	£ 75 - 80,000
Lot 10:	4 HOWFIELD COURT, 395 GILLOTT ROAD, EDGBASTON B16 9LL Spacious 2 bedroomed flat with garage, ideal investment	£ 60 - 70,000
Lot 11:	78 GALTON ROAD, BEARWOOD B67 5JU 3 bedroomed terraced, in need of modernisation	£ 120 - 130,000
Lot 12:	15 DAWSON STREET, SMETHWICK B66 4JB Traditional 2 bedroomed terraced, requiring modernisation	£ 75 - 80,000
Lot 13:	RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PLOT REAR OF 163 ABBEY ROAD, BEARWOOD B67 5LX Freehold building plot with planning permission for 2 bedroomed detached dormer bungalow	£ 45 - 50,000
Lot 14:	78 LIGHTWOODS ROAD, BEARWOOD B67 5BE Freehold 2 bedroomed mid-terraced villa, needing some cosmetic improvement	£ 90 - 95,000
Lot 15:	THUREE HOUSE, 221 ABBEY ROAD, BEARWOOD B67 5NN Individual freehold 3 bedroomed corner residence, in need of sympathetic improvement	£ 210 - 220,000

1 HEATH GREEN GROVE,

- End terraced property
- Freehold & Chain Free
- Three bedrooms
- Two living rooms
- Centrally heated
- Double glazed
- In need of renovation
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £72,000

Viewings Bearwood Office

46 MERRIVALE ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Superbly presented mid-terraced property
- Part double glazed and gas centrally heated
- Two double bedrooms & refitted bathroom
- Through lounge/dining room & refitted kitchen
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Ideal FTBs
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £124,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

29 STANLEY ROAD, OLDBURY

- Extended semi-detached property
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Spacious lounge and dining room
- Splendid refitted kitchen/breakfast room
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Off-street parking for two cars
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED

OFFERS BASED ON £165,000

Viewings Bearwood Office

77 GALTON ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Close to Lightwoods Park and Warley Woods
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms and bathroom to first floor
- Hall, through lounge/dining room and kitchen
- An ideal family home
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £172,500

Viewings Bearwood Office

73 QUEENSRIDGE COURT, OLDBURY

- Retirement home designated for over 60s
- 35% SHARE
- PVC double glazed
- Under floor heating
- Two bedrooms
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : B

OFFERS BASED ON £28,875

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

QUEENS ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Superior architect designed
- Detached properties
- Quality fittings throughout
- Recently completed

GUIDE PRICE £320,000

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

PRICES from £59,000

PERRY COURT

1 BEDROOMED RETIREMENT FLATS FOR SALE

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50 FARM ROAD, OLDBURY

- Ideal FTBs
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- 2 bedrooms & bathroom
- Two reception rooms
- Kitchen
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £94,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

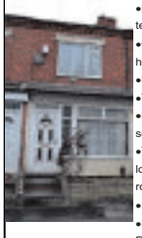
39 BRISBANE ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Open plan lounge/diner
- Extended kitchen
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £97,500

VIEWING BEARWOOD OFFICE

37 REGINALD ROAD, BEARWOOD



- Freehold mid-terraced
- Centrally heated
- Double glazed
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom with sep. shower
- Through lounge/dining room
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £114,500

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

58 WEDGEWOOD ROAD, QUINTON

- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms & bathroom with electric shower
- Hall, lounge, dining room and kitchen
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Neatly laid out gardens to front and rear
- Ideal FTBs

OFFERS BASED ON £119,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

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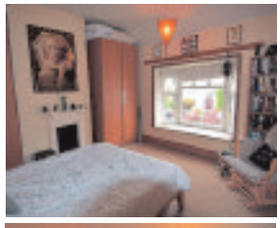
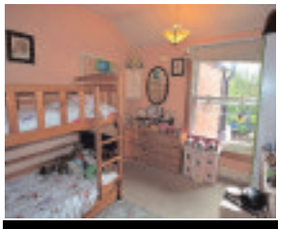
NEW

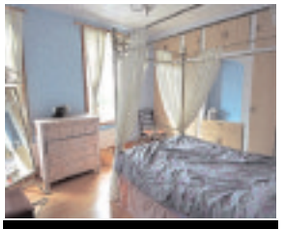



Upper St. Marys Road, Bearwood

- A Most Attractive And Stylish Mid Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Two Bedrooms
- An Extended, Contemporary Styled Kitchen
- Retaining Many Period Features
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £164,950

NEW

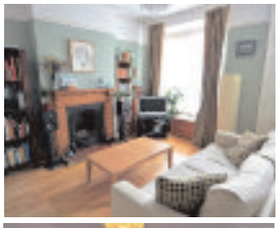
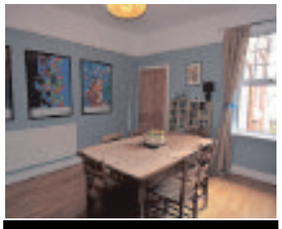


Park Road, Bearwood

- Well Presented Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Split Level Through Lounge
- Spacious Bathroom
- Mature Rear Garden
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £164,950

NOW AVAILABLE

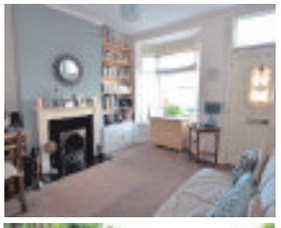



Bishopton Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern Kitchen
- Ideal First Time Purchase
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £169,950

NEW

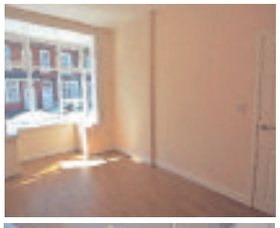


Ethel Street, Bearwood

- Attractive Mid Terrace Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Feature Fireplaces
- Pleasant Rear Garden
- Ideal First Purchase
- EP Rating TBC

Offers In The Region of £119,950

NEW



Majuba Road, Edgbaston

- Refurbished Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Superb Kitchen & Bathroom
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £109,950

NEW

Topsham Road, Smethwick

- Well Presented Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Pleasant Rear Garden
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £124,950

NEW

City Road, Edgbaston

- Traditional Semi-Detached
- Requiring Improving
- Four Bedrooms
- Workshop With Electric Points
- Off Road Parking
- EP Rating E

Offers In The Region of £215,000

Bristnall Hall Road, Oldbury

- Uniquely Positioned Semi
- Ideal Family Sized Home
- Three Bedrooms
- Useful Loft Space
- Ample Parking & Garage
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £189,950

Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury

- Exceptional Detached Property
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Beautifully Maintained Garden
- An Ideal Family Home
- Ample Off Road Parking
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £374,950

Southfield Avenue, Edgbaston

NEW

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Ideal 1st Purchase/Buy to Let
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £100,000

Holly Lane, Smethwick

NEW

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Ideal 1st Purchase/Buy to Let
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £97,500

Richmond Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £122,000

Overdale Road, Quinton

- An Extended Semi
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Bedrooms
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £139,950

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KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337**

THELMA, 43, attractive blonde, seeks loving, honest, funny male to pamper and make happy.**Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416979**

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PRETTY slim female, 48, N/S, no ties, seeks tall, slim level headed male for initial friendship and evenings out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416727**

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HI my name is Zara. I am 5ft 4ins, slim build. I am looking for a genuine male aged between 45 and 50 with gsoh who enjoys going out. **Text only Mailbox No: 4362903**

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Men seeking women

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TALL, dark, slim, attractive guy, 48, seeks attractive female for no strings fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 299904**

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55YR old male, 5ft 6ins, dark hair, loyal, likes keep fit, seeks special female to light my fire. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393333**

SLIM attractive man 51, GSOH, WLTM lady 45-55 for evenings out and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406259**

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388372**

MALE 67, smoker, solvent, OHAC, seeking feminine, voluptuous woman, 60-65 for days out, weekends away, holidays and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417043**

RICHARD 44, single, happy go lucky, likes pubs, clubs, socialising, seeking female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416995**

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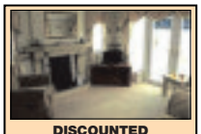

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spring fayre

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3 Home & Services

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READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

items for sale

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CALL DEAN! Business/Domestic, Deliveries/Relocation/full house 1 item.07429 453209 / 01902 830870 01384 940260 / 01922 263460.

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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

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pets corner

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5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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7 Jobs

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MERCEDES C270 CDI ELEGANCE
Auto 2002, full leather, electric heated front seats, alloys, ABS, EW, AC, CL, CD, alarm, headlamp wash, front/rear parking sensors, MoT April 2016.
Very Clean Car £2,000
07724 629285

MERCEDES ECLASS CDI
2006, 61,000 Miles, BLACK, electric windows, air con, long MoT, auto, central locking, diesel, Alloys, Leather Interior, sport interior.
£6,800.
07795 348359

PEUGEOT 207 VERVE 59 reg, silver, 25,000 miles, MoT Feb 16, Tax Aug, Immaculate condition. SH. £3,750 ono. 07810 352012.

RENAULT MEGANE 1.5DCI, 2009, 79,950 miles, grey, diesel, 6 months MoT. £4,750 ono. 07812 963036.

RENAULT MEGANE1.5DCi TECHRUN
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£2,900 ono.
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SMART CAR FOR TWO MHD 2010, auto, black and silver, satnav, 44,500 miles, MoT and service. £3,750 ono. 0121 526 4793.

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11 plate. 4 door. Petrol.
19k miles.
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07979 063456.

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01691 649887.

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£1,000 ono.
07547 132 213.

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RENAULT CLIO Sport 1.2, 2005, petrol, 5 speed manual, E/W, stereo, CD, FSH, private plate. £1,395. 07460 116516.

ROVER 400 1.6
Petrol, manual, V reg, 2 owners, MoT November, metallic blue, genuine 43,000 miles, excellent condition inside and out, genuine reason for sale.
£800 ono.
01922 413589 (after 5pm).

ROVER 75 2004, 1.8 petrol, 12 months MoT, low mileage, silver, towbar, 18inch alloys, CD/radio, £795 ono. 07895 603714.

ROVER STREETWISE
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SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Roberts Road and Addison Road, Wednesbury) (Temporary Road Closures) Order 2015, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along the following roads in Wednesbury: 1) Roberts Road at the point of its junction with Walsall Road (anticipated dates 25/05/15 - 08/06/15), and 2) Addison Road between Asbury Road and Addison Close (anticipated dates 08/06/15 - 22/06/15). The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 22/06/15, effective from 25/05/15. Traffic will be diverted as follows: for Roberts Road traffic via Walsall Road, Sandy Lane and Friar Park Road and vice-versa. For Addison Road traffic via Asbury Road, Addison Road and vice-versa. Purpose – gas main replacement by National Grid Gas.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (High Street, West Bromwich) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2015, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along High Street, West Bromwich between Dartmouth Street and Lodge Road. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 07/06/15, effective from 31/05/15 – Sundays only. Traffic will be diverted via Dartmouth Street, Oak Lane, Oxford Road, Lodge Road and vice-versa. Purpose – dismantle and remove crane – BAM Construction Ltd.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Chester Road, Cradley Heath) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2015, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Chester Road, Cradley Heath. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 25/06/15, effective from 22/06/15 (22.00hrs – 06.00hrs only). Traffic will be diverted via Lower High Street, Cradley Road and vice-versa. Purpose – vegetation clearance adjacent to the railway line by AMCO.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Brades Rise, Oldbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2015, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Brades Rise, Oldbury. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 12/06/15, effective from 08/06/15. Traffic will be diverted via Brades Road, St James Road, Axletree Road and vice-versa. Purpose – new gas service – Balfour Beatty for National Grid Gas.

Notice is hereby given that Punch Taverns PLC has applied in respect of the Brunswick Public House, 301 Crankhall Lane Wednesbury WS10 0QQ for a variation to the Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003 to: Vary the hours for the sale of alcohol and recorded music to 02:00am on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Vary the hours the premises is open to the public to 02:30am on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Representations to this application must be made in writing, by Thursday 11 June 2015, to the Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Licensing Authority at: Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Licensing Team, Unit 33 Coneygree Road Tipton DY4 8XR where the register of Licensing applications can be inspected between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday and/or at www.sandwell.gov.uk. It is an offence on summary conviction, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine for which is, unlimited.
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10 Personals

sports clubs

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, May 21, 2015

On their bikes for charity

By James Parker

This year Benham BMW Wolverhampton is supporting Breakthrough Breast Cancer with an ambitious event to be staged at the BMW Centre on June 20 and 21.

Benham has teamed up with Jim Bertram and his intrepid team of cyclists as they attempt to ride from Wolverhampton to Delhi, on static bikes, in just 24-hours.

That's a massive total of 4,250 miles, and in order to reach their goal, it'll mean that each of the 10 riders will need to manage an average speed of 18 mph throughout the whole of the 24-hour period.

Jim is the organiser of the event and is placed within the top two per cent of one million fundraisers on the 'Just Giving' Awards 2014. He's an Ambassador for Stoke City Community Trust and an Ambassador for Pedal4sport on behalf of Benham BMW Wolverhampton.

Preparation

Jim is no stranger to long distance cycling having previously completed other charity rides from Stoke to Glasgow and a recent ride from Land's End to John O'Groats. It all makes for great preparation on the run up to this huge challenge.

So why Wolverhampton to Delhi? Well, Punjabi Wolves work with projects in Delhi, and a few years ago Jim was invited to go to India's capital to see how some of his earlier charity efforts had been put to use. It provided Jim with great insight, so when thoughts of a long distance event were discussed, 4,250 miles to Delhi came up as a challenging yet achievable goal!

The 24 hour ride involves eight cyclists on fixed static bikes, the type of cycle you find in keep fit gyms. The event is a huge undertaking for all those involved. Corporate sponsors include Nutrition Active, Pure Gym, Waitrose, 3LC and Perton Golf Club.

As hosts of the event and with support from other sponsors, Benham will be providing for all the needs of the cyclists throughout the ride. Benham is aiming to raise as much as they can for Breakthrough Breast Cancer. However, no figure is being mentioned because the aim is to smash it!

Benham has teamed up with Jim Bertram and his intrepid team of cyclists as they attempt to ride from Wolverhampton to Delhi, on static bikes, in just 24 hours

Throughout the run up to the event raffle tickets will be on sale with prizes being donated by both BMW and MINI along with many other generous supporters.

Most of us will know of someone that does have or has had cancer. Perhaps a family member has experienced or is experiencing cancer.

Maybe you've been touched by the disease yourself. Call into Benham BMW on Lever Street, Wolverhampton on Saturday, June 20 or Sunday, June 21 to offer encouragement to the cyclists during this huge challenge.

Support the team as they raise sponsorship for the charity Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

Dig deep to sponsor Jim Bertram and his heroic team of cyclists and while you're there, why not buy a raffle ticket to win a terrific prize?

Keep up to date with all the preparations for the event by following Benham on Twitter @BenhamBMW

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Available at participating retailers only. Conditional Sale. Offers available on orders or registrations made by 30th June 2015. Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Pictures for illustration purposes only. *Offer subject to availability at participating Retailers only. Personal Contract Purchase. Finance subject to status, Terms and Conditions apply Applicants must be 18 years or over. Finance by Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. 24-36 month term available. At the end of the agreement there are three options: i) Retain the vehicle: Pay the optional final payment to own the vehicle, ii) Return the vehicle, or iii) Replace: Part Exchange the vehicle, where equity is available. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. Subject to our fair wear and tear terms and conditions.

Putting on the style at bargain price tag

By Ian Donaldson

Add style to most cars and you add cost too, sometimes paying a small fortune for something that stands out in a crowd.

And we don't seem to mind, a fact the car makers know only too well. It means they can bump up the bottom line and we keep smiling.

Well, here is a car that trades on its look to sell over the more mundane machine it's based on – but doesn't ask for extra for the privilege of a bit more style.

Say hello to the new Hyundai i20 coupe, closely based on the latest i20 hatchback but lacking a couple of doors and with the body subtly redrawn to give it a svelte look from the side.

The result is a car that won't frighten the horses but might just draw admiring glances as it attempts to park in the daily school run jamboree – looks that will turn to mild astonishment when the price is disclosed.

Because here is a car that seems a genuine bargain. No, make that a steal if you compare it with something like a Ford Fiesta with the same sized engine and a near equal price tag.

Lost

Not only is the coupe the same price as the equivalent Hyundai hatch (which, admittedly gains rear doors over the coupe) but it's so well equipped compared to the Ford you wonder if the latter has lost a page of the brochure.

So before we take the i20 Coupe for a drive, let's examine its standard kit in some detail. For the less than £13,000 price tag you'll find alloy wheels, electrically-adjusted and heated door mirrors and front fog lights on the outside.

Move to the interior and you discover air conditioning, cruise control, rear parking sensors, audio controls on the steering wheel and a smartphone docking station atop the dash.

Dig deeper, to discover tyre pressure monitoring, hill start assist and a space saver spare wheel, not a bottle of doubtfully useful pressurised gloop. And don't forget Hyundai's five-year, unlimited mileage warranty that includes five years roadside assistance too.

By now you may be wondering if Hyundai has spent so much on the fixtures and fittings it has left no room to make a profit.

Well, there are obvious savings on the look and feel of the interior. It's all a bit drab and black and plasticky, but everything works with enough solid precision to promise a long and trouble-free life.

There's also enough room under the coupe's lowered roofline for a couple of adults in the rear, where they will find identical legroom to the five-door hatch and only a little headroom shaved off it the pursuit of style. The boot's a sensible size too.

Out on the road the little 1.2-litre engine does its best to be perky but doesn't really relish revs; better to let it relax a little and enjoy a ride that makes a very respectable job of flattening out our awful British road surfaces.

Driven with brio the test car's trip computer (another standard fitting) showed 46mpg at journey's end. That's a decent return but there is a diesel engine on offer (at a healthy £2,000 premium) that would do better still.

You might think, though, that the cheapest coupe (prices stretch to £16,400 for a diesel with satnav) is the most sensible buy.

Make that stylish and sensible.

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Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Kia 'SR7' range are: Urban 32.1 (8.8) – 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) – (3.3), Combined 42.8 (6.6) – 78.5 (3.6). CO_2 Emissions are 149 – 94g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

Models shown: Kia Rio 3-dr 'SR7' 1.25 84bhp 5-speed manual @ £10,845 including £1,000 customer saving, Kia cee'd 'SR7' 1.4 98bhp 6-speed manual @ £14,650 including £1,000 customer saving and Kia Picanto 'SR7' 1.0 68bhp 5-speed manual @ £9,610 including metallic paint with £700 customer saving. Customer savings vary by model derivative. Specification is subject to change without notice. Price, Reevoo score and number of reviews correct at time of going to press. †3 years' servicing (Kia Care-3) for £99 offer is only valid on applicable 'SR7' models. Log onto kia.co.uk/sr7 for full details. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty, for terms and exclusions visit www.kia.co.uk. Offer not available with any other offer. Retail sales only. Subject to availability on vehicles registered between 01/04/2015 and 30/06/2015. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. 18's or over. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. 10% minimum deposit. Further charges may be made subject to the condition or mileage of the vehicle. Excess mileage charge 14.9p per mile. 25, 31 and 37 month terms. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle. (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Kia Motors Finance RH1 1SR. Brindley (Wolverhampton) 55 Penn Road Wolverhampton, WV2 4WW 01902 717702. **E L Bouts Motors Ltd trading as Brindley Kia Wolverhampton are a credit broker (not a lender) for the purposes of this financial promotion and can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and may receive a commission from them for the introduction. You will not own the vehicle until all payments are made.**

New Volvo XC90 T8 in a class of its own

By Sharon Walters

The XC90 T8 Twin Engine, the world's most powerful and cleanest SUV, has exceeded all expectations when it comes to the no compromise equation of power and low fuel consumption, coupled with world class low emissions – and all in a 7-seat luxury SUV.

The XC90 T8 Twin Engine delivers 49 g/km CO2, a combined 407 hp*, 640 Nm of torque, 134.5mpg and up to 26 miles pure electric range.

The improvement over the earlier announced figures were achieved thanks to the continuous innovation cycle at the Swedish company.

The result of further tuning is a drop of 10 g/km from the initial prognosis, for up to 134.5mpg (combined) fuel economy, while also adding horsepower. This makes the XC90 T8 Twin Engine the clear leader in its segment, with an exceptional combination of low fuel consumption, emissions and pure power.

No other SUV in this class can deliver 26 miles of pure electric range, 0-62mph in 5.6 seconds and provide combined power of 407 hp – all in a seven seat configuration. All figures are based on the NEDC driving cycle for hybrids*.

There's a Driving Mode for every need. The XC90 T8 Twin Engine can go from 0 to 62mph in 5.6 seconds, delivering all the driving pleasure customers have come to expect from a Volvo SUV.

But driving pleasure is only a fraction of what the XC90 T8 offers: the car has five different driving modes that deliver a range of performance and efficiency-enhancing characteristics.

Using either a scroll wheel on the centre console or a touchscreen on the dashboard, drivers can choose from five different options.

'Hybrid' is the default mode suitable for everyday use.

Here, the vehicle will automatically alternate between drawing power from the 2-litre, 4-cylinder Drive-E engine and the electric motor to deliver the best overall fuel consumption.

With 'Pure Electric' mode, when the high-voltage battery is fully charged, it serves as the car's sole energy source, powering the electric motor over the rear axle.

Efficient

The XC90 T8 has a range of up to 26 miles using just electricity, which covers the total distance many people drive in one day.

And thanks to the regenerative braking system, this mode is super-efficient in the stop-and-go traffic of city environments. If more power is needed, the Drive-E combustion engine starts up automatically.

'In power mode', drivers get the combined performance of the combustion engine and the electric motor. On start-up, the SUV takes advantage of the electric motor's superior response and instant torque curve, while the combustion engine gets up to speed.

This combination offers better torque at lower revs, equivalent to that of a large displacement engine like the V8.

'AWD' mode offers constant all-wheel drive on demand. The advantage of being able to select AWD manually is that the driver can use it when needed, or choose to save energy for later.

With 'Save Mode', if the battery is charged, it allows the driver to "freeze" the battery level and save it for later use with Pure Electric drive.

On the other hand, if the battery is low, the driver can use the combustion engine to charge the battery to a certain level for later use with Pure Electric drive.

The Volvo XC90 T8 Twin Engine will be available later this spring in Volvo showrooms.

*320hp + 87 hp power and 400 + 240 Nm torque – combined 407hp and 640 Nm.

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The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. *Celerio range – Celerio 1.0 SZ3 Petrol Manual available at £7,999 to Celerio 1.0 SZ4 Petrol AGS available at £9,799. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st April 2015 to 30th June 2015 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. Model shown: Celerio SZ4 (metallic paint available at £415).

Search/SuzukiCarsUK

Impressive compact crossover

By Sharon Walters

It's not often that you get to test a car's full potential in a week-long test drive but I did manage just that in the impressive compact crossover Suzuki SX4 S-Cross.

I tested out all four modes on the 4WD system in genuine situations, not sought-out, and was left very pleased with the results. More of that later.

It is fair to say that Suzuki has been in the doldrums a little in recent years and was fairly late to enter this compact crossover sector. But it finally got the S-Cross to the roads 18 months ago and with its adaptable cabin, plenty of standard kit and running costs, it has proved a success. Although with that late entry it was highly unlikely to get head-to-head with its rivals.

There's a choice of four main specifications: SZ3, SZ4, SZ-T and SZ5, with a DDiS six-speed manual gearbox available on all models, Allgrip four-wheel drive available on the SZ-T and SZ5 models and a choice of petrol and frugal diesel engines.

All S-Cross SZ3 models are equipped as standard with seven airbags, ESP and tyre pressure monitoring as well as daytime running lights, 16in alloy wheels, cruise control with speed limiter, air conditioning, heated door mirrors, protective skid plates and black wheel arch extensions.

SZ-T adds satellite navigation with DAB digital radio, polished 17in alloy wheels, rear parking camera, rear parking proximity sensors, dual-zone automatic air conditioning, front fog lamps, Bluetooth connectivity, rear privacy glass, silver roof rails and silver skid plates.

Equipment for the top-of-the-range SZ5 model includes front parking sensors, leather seat upholstery, double sliding panoramic sunroof and HID projector headlamps with Auto function.

Equipment

Now that's an awful lot of equipment for a car where the entry level model comes in at £15,499. I drove the SZ5 which comes in at £22,049 and is a very attractive price for the package when held in comparison to what you get in rivals.

It is a package to cater for the needs of families and their lifestyles and also for fleet and corporate buyers, where CO2 emissions are 110g/km for the 1.6DDiS 2WD model and 125g/km for the 2WD petrol model, with optional CVT. Achieving low CO2 emissions of 110g/km result in an annual VED charge of just £20.

Service intervals are longer than other Suzuki models too at 12,500 miles which helps to lower cost of ownership. All other Suzuki models have service intervals of 9,000 miles.

Residual values are strong too and good news for higher mileage fleet operators with CAP quoting a retained value of 39 per cent over the conventional three years/ 60,000 miles period for the 1.6-litre DDiS SZ5 model.

Outside the car looks modern and there's the usual SUV-inspired plastic body cladding, but it looks good and stylish as does the interior which has high quality. Once behind the wheel the cabin is well laid out and the dash is a delight – yes it's simple and doesn't need you to spend a day reading the instruction book to work out where everything is! And it does have everything you want. The SZ5 has an excellent intuitive touch-screen infotainment and satnav system. And that satnav certainly proved useful and more efficient than many in more expensive vehicles I have driven – it immediately took me on a route I regularly use by the quickest way, something not all satnavs do.

There's a 430-litre boot which can be extended by folding the rear bench flat. Useful touches in the boot include shopping bag hooks, a 12V power supply and a false floor that hides extra storage where you can hide valuables.

For a relatively high-riding crossover the S-Cross feels agile on winding country roads and is pleasant to drive, with little more body roll than a standard family car. And here we go on to using those four driving modes. The four-mode 4WD system has four driver-selectable modes – auto, sport, snow, and lock. You select the desired mode using a simple push-and-turn dial on the centre console.

For most driving, the auto mode prioritises fuel economy in typical driving conditions. The system uses 2WD by default and will switch to 4WD if wheel spin is detected.

I do a lot of driving on country roads and the sport mode is optimal for those twisty roads. The system makes maximum use of 4WD in response to accelerator inputs. At low and mid-range engine speeds, the system alters the accelerator/torque characteristics to optimise engine response and cornering performance. And all that works really well.

The snow mode is optimal for snowy, unpaved and other slippery surfaces. Excellent as I hit spring snow on high ground on my travels as was the lock mode, designed for extricating the car from snow, mud or sand. And I needed that to get off an icy car park at 2,000ft in The Highlands.

My S-Cross came with the 1.6 petrol engine which was fine but it only has half the amount of torque of the 1.6 diesel. And I really could have done with a little of that pull going up the mountain roads.

Travelling in the S-Cross is enjoyable and even after long journeys the driver is not tired out thanks to comfortable seats, among other things. And the cabin is spacious and airy helped by the glass roof which lets in a lot of light.

X certainly marks the spot for the Suzuki SX4 S-Cross.

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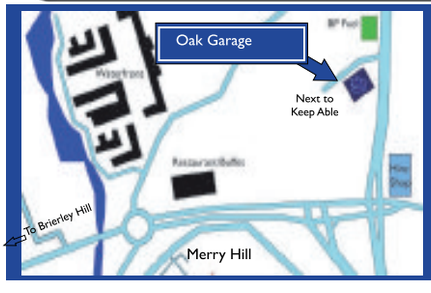

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Jack put international role on hold

VILLA manager Tim Sherwood has explained Jack Grealish put his international future on hold because of the club's Barclays Premier League relegation fight.

The talented teenager was criticised by both Republic of Ireland and England fans on social media this week for delaying a decision on which of the two countries to represent at senior international level.

Birmingham-born Grealish has already represented Ireland at age-grade groups but has yet to disqualify himself from representing England at senior level and is at the centre of an international tug-of-war between the two countries for his services.

Ireland manager Martin O'Neill said he was 'disappointed' the 19-year-old midfielder had rejected the chance to join up with the Republic squad for next month's friendly against England and the Euro 2016 qualifier with Scotland, but Sherwood said Grealish's focus is solely on club matters with Villa yet to secure their top-flight status.

"It's not a slight on Ireland, England or anyone," said Sherwood, whose side can guarantee Premier League survival by winning at Southampton on Saturday. "I don't think Jack didn't want to play for Ireland, I don't think he didn't want to play for England or Brazil for that matter.

"He will make his decision. He's good enough to play international football but he's putting that on hold. The case was he was always going to decide on his international future at the end of this season.

"He's got three very important games to take care of for Aston Villa. His concentration is fully on that.

"Jack hasn't made his mind up what country he wants to represent but the good news is they all want him.

"It's a decision only Jack has to make in a cool, calm situation at the end of this season."

Villa won three of their last four league games, including the last two against Everton and West Ham, to be the masters of their own destiny.

And even though Southampton beat them 6-1, they are safe because Hull lost.."

Lambert rooting for Villa to lift the FA Cup

PAUL Lambert insists he would love to see Villa lift the FA Cup and said he bears no grudge against the club over his sacking.

The 45-year-old was axed by Villa in February after the club's winter slump left them in the relegation drop zone.

Lambert insisted he respected the decision but admitted he was angry at being told of the news over the telephone by chief executive Tom Fox.

"I wasn't disappointed the decision was made but I was disappointed with how it was made," Lambert said.

"I don't think it's good when you're getting a telephone call, I don't think that's the right way it should have been done.

"I was up in Scotland and I got a call at night and that was it. I have a good relationship with Randy Lerner and he's a good guy."

Lambert was forced to cut costs at Villa and added: "It is a massive football club and everyone says we should be in the top six or seven but that could never have been sustained by doing what we were doing."

Lambert said he delighted to see the turnaround in form under his replacement Tim Sherwood and said would love to see Villa win the Cupagainst Arsenal on May 30.

"I've got nothing bad to say about Aston Villa, it's a brilliant football club and there is no animosity from me whatsoever," he said. "I'm delighted that Tim is doing well and hopefully they can win the FA Cup.

"I've always said they will stay in the league when everyone is fully fit and that is exactly what is going to happen."

Mané goals give Villa hammering

Portsmouth 6 Villa 1

AS Tim Sherwood sat in a corner of St Mary's Stadium, struggling for words to explain a 6-1 drubbing, the unmistakeable bassline from Chic's seminal hit Good Times could be heard from the other side of the wall.

For an entirely unintended piece of juxtaposition, it was devastatingly brutal.

Put to the sword on the south coast thanks to Sadio Mané's record-breaking two-minute 56second hat-trick, Sherwood's men were soon celebrating after Hull's defeat at Tottenham confirmed Premier League safety.

A battle had been lost – and badly too – yet the war very much won.

Mané was two-thirds to his record thanks in part to fortunate ricochets which provided him with tap-ins, while another lucky bounce allowed Shane Long to net his first, before a second of rare brilliance.

This was unquestionably Southampton's day and for a period in the opening half it seemed everything they tried came off.

But Sherwood would be fooling himself if he marks it down as just a bad day at the office.

Fixing

The Saints ruthlessly exposed the fault lines in Villa's defence which have been present for years and will require fixing, if the endless cycle of relegation battles is indeed to be ended.

Mané opened the scoring on 13 minutes when he raced in between Vlaar and Hutton and then tapped home after his first effort rebounded off the unlucky Shay Given.

Two minutes later, the Senegalese striker no doubt couldn't believe his luck as Vlaar's blunder presented him with another open goal.

The hat-trick goal, 60 seconds later, was a brilliant finish, before fortune intervened again as Pelle's shot was saved by Given and fell straight to Long to roll home the fourth.

Another mistake, this time by Westwood, then gave the former Albion man the chance to lob Given from a full 35 yards as Villa crumbled.

Benteke's header in first half stoppage time at least provided some comfort but the visitors could then not even claim the second period as a moral victory, thanks to Pelle's strike.

Best finish to date for TCR duo

Driver Matt Chapman's car on the course at the Junior Championship,Thruxton. Pic: Jakob Ebrey Photography

CAMERON ROBERTS and Matt Chapman each claimed season-best results for Wednesbury-based Total Control Racing during the third event of the Ginetta Junior Championship season at Thruxton, but teammate Dave Wooder saw very real podium potential spoiled due to contact.

Fresh from a double victory in the Ginetta GT5 Challenge at Rockingham a week earlier, TCR hoped to finally get its Ginetta Junior season firing on all cylinders but two robust races again resulted in mixed fortunes for the team's very rapid young trio.

Wooder was just 0.036 seconds off pole position in third, but a poor start dropped him into the pack where contact with Patrik Matthiesen saw him slip to 16th in round five.

Chapman took seventh, but Roberts was denied an even better finish by a moment on lap eight that dropped him to 18th at the flag.

In round six, the luckless Wooder was again the victim of damage. However, Roberts scythed through from 18th on the grid to take seventh, while Chapman was eighth.

Robbo tips Pulis to take club into Europe

FORMER Hawthorns hero Bryan Robson has tipped Albion to push for Europe under Tony Pulis.

Robson, who led the Baggies to the 'Great Escape' 10 years ago today, believes Pulis can get the club challenging for a Europa League spot.

The Welshman has secured a sixth successive season in the top flight for Albion.

And Robson, who also launched his illustrious playing career with the club, believes they can build.

"I went to West Brom when I was 13 years old and I had some fantastic times there," he said.

"West Brom fans are always brilliant with me whenever I go back, so I love to see them doing well.

"To be fair to the chairman (Jeremy Peace), he's built the club up so they've now got a great stadium and a great training ground.

"And West Brom have always had 22,000-23,000 hardcore fans who stick with them through good times and bad, so everything they need to be successful is in place.

Reason

"They are a club who can do better than they have in the last couple of years and hopefully, now they have stayed up this season, they can do that under Tony Pulis.

"If they can have a good summer, there's no reason why they can't be in the top half of the table and pushing for European places."

But Robson believes Albion must back Pulis in the transfer market, with the head coach planning a major overhaul of his squad.

"It's important a manager is allowed to bring in the players he needs," added Robson.

"I've always said that great players make great managers."

Albion need bigger squad, says Kemp

ASSISTANT boss Dave Kemp says Albion need a bigger squad next season to avoid another Premier League relegation battle.

Tony Pulis' right-hand man says the Baggies must have more options after Pulis found himself struggling for strikers and with rookie goalkeeper Jack Rose on the bench.

"We literally have three centre-forwards and two goalkeepers," said Kemp. "I don't think there would be another club in that situation.

"I'm not criticising Jack Rose, who has been on the bench, but he doesn't have the experience.

"I wouldn't like to put a number on it. There might be 11 players out there that we'd like, but whether we get those 11 is different. We're not just going to sign players to make up the numbers."

Boss' fears over burnout for Berahino

ALBION boss Tony Pulis has admitted his burnout fears for hot-shot Saido Berahino – but hailed the striker's maturity at the start of 2015.

Pulis is concerned the 21-year-old will be fatigued after representing England at this summer's Under-21s European Championships in the Czech Republic.

But the Baggies boss, who rested Berahino from his starting line-up at Newcastle last weekend, is full of praise for the academy product's development in recent months.

"I think he is enjoying his football and I think he has a better rapport now with everybody around the football club," said Pulis. "He is a better lad than he was when I first walked through the door. He is much more open, more together."

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Sport

Too Mané goals for Villa to handle

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Full day of FA Cup final coverage

Football

THE BBC is to will devote a whole day of programming to the FA Cup final, reviving the tradition of all-day coverage of the Wembley showpiece.

The match on Saturday May 30 sees Villa take on defending champions Arsenal on BBC One.

Highlights of the TV build-up to the big game include special editions of Saturday Kitchen and Top of the Pops 2.

There will also be special content on Radio 5 live and the BBC Sport website including BBC Breakfast, FA Cup Rewind: Classic Finals, MOTD Kickabout , Football Focus, Gary Lineker on the Road to FA Cup Glory and even Pointless FA Cup Special ahead of the full live up Final coverage which kicks-off at 5.30pm.

Meanwhile, Scott Sinclair has sealed a permanent £2.5million move from Manchester City.

But the winger has been told by manager Tim Sherwood his chances of making the starting line-up will depend on what formation is played. Sinclair has not started a game since the 1-0 defeat to Swansea on March 21, following Sherwood's decision to switch to a diamond formation in midfield. He was then dropped from the matchday 18 for the 1-0 win over West Ham before returning as a substitute in the 6-1 defeat at Southampton.

The deal to sign Sinclair on a permanent basis should Villa survive was struck before Sherwood replaced Paul Lambert in February.

And the manager admits any return for Sinclair is likely to depend on tactics.

"I think if we go back to wide players then Scott will be an automatic choice to play there," said the Villa boss.

"It's horses for courses at the moment. That's the way we're choosing to play. "

Team 'would be cool' with Saido move

DARREN Fletcher believes Saido Berahino's West Bromwich Albion team mates would not begrudge the striker a move to a top club this summer.

Berahinotook his tally for the season to 20 with a superb brace against already-crowned Premier League Champions Chelsea on Monday night.

And Fletcher, who also starred in the team's 3-0 hammering of Jose Mourinho's high-fliers, said: "It's very difficult when big clubs come calling and he's an ambitious kid who wants to do well in the game.

"He will probably want to go on and represent England and all these different things.

"Who knows what the summer holds? We want him to stay, obviously, because he's a fantastic player but I don't think we'd begrudge him if a big team came calling and paid a lot of money to take him."

Fletcher, who spent 12 years playing at Manchester United prior to joining the Baggies, knows what it takes to excel at one Europe's biggest clubs, and he said Berahino has the hallmarks of a top-level striker.

He said: "We see him in training and he finishes really well, right in the corner.

"You see the difference with top strikers with the way they hit the ball and how it hits the net.

"He is very clinical and against a fantastic goalkeeper on Monday he produced a fantastic finish (for his second goal against Chelsea)."

Fletcher added: "He's a great lad who is willing to learn and willing to sacrifice himself for the team. He's had some long shifts up front on his own and he's done it and never complained."

Major changes at Villa are not on Sherwood's list

TIM Sherwood believes any major change in approach would be "mad" despite Villa's Southampton shocker.

The claret and blues conceded five goals in the first half as they were thumped 6-1 by the Saints.

But Sherwood is wary of reading too much into one performance, no matter how dire, and is vowing to stick by his principles.

"Our preparations were the same when we've been winning games," said the Villa boss. "You can't really change. You'd be mad to do that. You've got to believe.

"I know the way I want to work and I know the way I want the players to play and in the main it's worked but on Saturday it came unstuck."

Sherwood has promised the performance on the south coast will not be forgotten and was planning to review the video nasty of his side's opening 45 minutes.

"It's hard for me to make too many judgments," he said. "I want to watch it and see it again. "It's really hard to dissect it at the moment. You have to see what you can learn."

BAGGIES ENJOY BLUES REVENGE

Albion 3 Chelsea 0

EIGHTEEN months and 10 days later, Albion fans got their sweet revenge.

"Three-nil to the Mickey Mouse" rang around The Hawthorns as the Baggies ended an often trying season with an evening of pure joy.

As if beating the Premier League champions out of sight wasn't fun enough, the Baggies got to rub Jose Mourinho's nose in it a year and a half after his infamous 'Mickey Mouse' rant at Stamford Bridge left him as Public Enemy No.1 among Baggies fans.

They got to see two special goals and an emphatic penalty from their side as Saido Berahino ended his nine-match goal drought with a stunning strike and a fine spot-kick before Chris Brunt capped a brilliant individual display with a thunderous goal.

And they got to witness one of the most bizarre red cards in Premier League history as Cesc Fabregas almost took Brunt's head off with a shot from 20 yards away during an odd melee.

Perfect

It all meant a perfect end for Tony Pulis and his side to a season that is ending with them safely in mid-table despite a genuine flirtation with relegation.

And the style with which they brushed Mourinho's men aside will give them real hope for better times to come next season.Albion, with James Morrison and Callum McManaman restored to the starting line-up along with Berahino, made a bright start.

However, such was the positivity of Albion's start that it was little surprise when they took the lead on 20 minutes with a stunning goal.

Chris Brunt's pass to Joleon Lescott was clever, Lescott's first-time lay-off was excellent and Berahino's curling shot with his right foot was magnificent, bending around a stranded Thibaut Courtois and inside the post.

Chelsea responded immediately with a clever attack that ended with Nemanja Matic sending a left-footed effort just wide from the edge of the area.

And makeshift Baggies right-back Craig Dawson showed his growing confidence .If the first half had started well for Albion, the second 45 minutes began perfectly. Berahino drilled a great penalty into the bottom corner.

And on 60 minutes the Baggies were in dreamland as Brunt made it 3-0.

The former Baggies captain cut in from the right and let fly with a left-footed rocket that was too powerful for Courtois, who was beaten low at his near-post.

That sparked the start of carnival time in the stands with Baggies fans lapping up every second of their success against the Premier League champions.

Chelsea produced a response of sorts and Myhill had to make a great save to keep out a Matic shot after Cahill had flicked on a Filipe Luis corner. But the Baggies continued to enjoy themselves and Brunt and Morrison linked up well to provide Berahino with a chance of his hat-trick, but the striker skied his shot.

There were some pantomime boos for Izzy Brown, the former Albion teenager who made his Chelsea bow against his old club as a late substitute.

But that reaction flew in the face of the jubilant mood of the evening as Albion fans were given an occasion to savour.

John Terry upends Berahino to concede a penalty, which the striker converted

Afobe needs more graft, says Moxey

WOLVES chief executive Jez Moxey claims hotshot Benik Afobe must work harder if he is to become a top striker.

The £2m hitman has impressed after scoring 13 goals in 21 games for Wolves to take his tally to 32 in all competitions this season to make him the country's top scorer.

Afobe has been linked with Albion and Crystal Palace but while Moxey is convinced there is improvement in the 22-year-old, he says the striker must graft harder to fulfil his potential as Wolves head coach Kenny Jackett looks to get his frontmen to close down defenders more.

"For me, he's got to work both sides of the ball," said Moxey. "He's got better at it and the thing we really like about Benik is he's a development player. He just happened to be an Arsenal development player.

"He came through their academy system and he shares the same values as the vast majority of that dressing room shares. So he fits into the team really and thinks 'Do you know what? I have to improve'.

"The fact he's the country's leading scorer has us asking the question 'Can he do it two years in a row?'

"Half of his season was in League One but if he scores 30 goals in the Championship then it would be a different kettle of fish."

Afobe is just the sort of quality signing head coach Kenny Jackett is looking to make this summer as he prepares to lose out-of-contract winger Bakary Sako.

Moxey says Wolves will spend as they look to improve on their finish.Moxey added: "If we could find another Benik Afobe, we'd get him," he said."It comes at a price but we're willing to do that."

Jones signs deal with the Blues

FORMER Albion striker Alex Jones has signed a two-year contract at Birmingham City, with a further year's option.

The Wolverhampton-born 20-year-old – who was told he was being released by Albion at the end of the season – underwent a successful trial period at St Andrew's, having also spent time with Walsall.

He played in Blues Under-21s' final two league games of the season against Sheffield United and Barnsley, netting against the Tykes.

A product of the Baggies' Academy, Jones was a regular for Albion's development side, but did not made a first-team appearance for them prior to leaving the Hawthorns.

★★★

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